

Hafa Adai!

Torres prioritizes \$88 million for homestead infrastructure. **PAGE 2**

DOL releases \$3M unemployment benefits. **PAGE 3**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 166

**MONDAY** AUGUST 23, 2021

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## GCEA, PPP marks 1st year with largest 'Pledge'

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisors and the council's many Public Private Partnership participants come together for a group photo at the Susupe Civic Center last Saturday.

JOSHUA SANTOS

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Governor's Council of

Economic Advisors celebrated its first anniversary last Saturday at the Susupe Civic Center, recognizing its many

Public Private Partnership participants and altogether making the largest Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge to date.

In total, about 50 various public and private organizations that have signed on to the GCEA's Public Private

Partnership were recognized at the event and representatives were given certificates of recognition, after which each

organization took the Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge.

The PPP participants have

**See GCEA on Page 4**

## Senate OKs \$144.84M budget

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Senate passed during a special session Thursday night its version of the \$144.84-million budget bill

for the CNMI government's operations in fiscal year 2022.

Except for Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) who was absent, all senators voted "yes" to pass the budget bill during a special session.

It's very rare situation when

the Senate acts on a budget bill within two weeks after the House of Representatives transmits the bill. The budget bill will now go back to the House for action.

With \$175 million in American Rescue Plan Act

» **\$278.3M in combined general, ARPA funds**

» **Senators concur with Torres' use of ARPA funds**

funds, senators appropriated \$278,384,323 in combined general local funds and ARPA funds.

For the general fund, minus the money for debt servicing, this leaves the government \$98,897,301 that's available for appropriation in fiscal year 2022. Including the

**See BUDGET on Page 4**

### AT A GLANCE

As of 8:04pm, Aug. 22, 2021

#### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **76.2%**  
Fully Vaccinated: **76.2%**

Days since last community transmission **152**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,184
Fully Vaccinated:	27,428
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,587
Fully Vaccinated:	4,184
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	700

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	9200	98	9,298
Recovered	8,577	1	8,578
Active	478	98	576
Deaths	144	0	144

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	221	3	224
Traced via Travel Screening	184	3	184
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

## MCS student wins global Toyota art contest award

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A 14-year-old ninth-grade student at Mount Carmel

Catholic School beat out more than one million entries worldwide to win a "Mobility for All" special

**See MCS on Page 4**

Atkins Kroll sales manager Kevin Barnes, left, presents 14-year-old Mount Carmel School student Jeewoo Son, right, a plaque and \$5,000 check Saturday at Atkins Kroll showroom for winning the "Mobility for All" special award at global level for the 2021 Toyota Dream Car Art Contest. Mount Carmel vice principal Filmah Buenaflor, center, also receives the Toyota Motor Corp.'s \$10,000 check awarded to the school.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

### CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



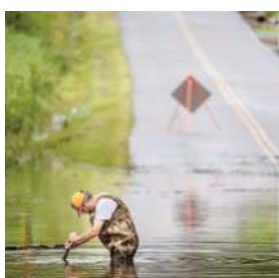
### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

The CNMI's real estate industry is also feeling the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**PAGE 11**



#### NATION

Catastrophic flooding in Middle Tennessee left at least eight dead and dozens missing Saturday.

**PAGE 12**



#### WORLD

At least eight people died after Hurricane Grace swept onto Mexico's Gulf coast as a Category 3 storm.

**PAGE 13**



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# Local

## Torres prioritizes \$88 million for homestead infrastructure

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres authorized last week the use of \$88 million under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for homestead infrastructure in the following villages: As Gonno on Saipan, West San Jose and Marpo Heights Phase III on Tinian, and Dugi on Rota.

The authorization was done in collaboration with the Department of Public Lands, the Infrastructure Recovery Program, and the Commonwealth

Utilities Corp.

"With careful planning and collaboration between our departments, I have always prioritized the issuance of homestead lots for our citizens. We wanted to make sure compliance is enforced so we can address the applicants who have been waiting since before we took office and to make the necessary preparations to get these projects off the ground once funding was identified," said Torres.

"On top of providing direct assistance for residents and their families under ARPA through programs like stimulus, child tax credits, and food assistance, I also wanted to make sure that we have funding allocated under the federal guidelines for infrastructure of new homes for residents. We thank DPL, IRP, and CUC for collaborating on this important initiative. We will continue to provide updates through DPL moving forward," Torres added.

res added.

Public Lands Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar said that, if all goes according to plan, DPL should be issuing lots to active applicants by the summer of next year.

DPL director of Planning Patricia Rasa said that, upon learning of Torres' move to commit funding for homestead infrastructure, her office immediately initiated an action plan to expedite the subdivision of the As Gonno

on Saipan and Marpo Heights Phase III on Tinian.

Igisomar noted that the Planning Surveying Team have been subdividing the lots for As Gonno on a daily basis and have completed close to 114 of the available 330 lots. He also noted the procurement for architecture and engineering to work on the perimeter of Marpo Heights Phase III is ongoing.

For Rota, Igisomar and his team will be visiting Rota to iron out details on the Dugi, Mua, Gempapa, As Nieves

and Fina'Fa Homestead (village and agriculture), during their community outreach on Rota scheduled for Sept. 9, 2021.

The DPL Homestead Division on Saipan, as well as the Tinian and Rota District Offices, encourages every active homestead applicant to call in and update their homestead applications. Saipan currently has a moratorium on homesteads, so only active applicants can update their records. (PR)

## 3 more test positive; 'Herd immunity must take into account the children'

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Three more incoming travelers were confirmed positive for COVID-19. The three were identified by travel screening and confirmed through fifth-day testing on Aug. 19. The cases bring the CNMI's total to 224 cases.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the individuals have since then been quarantined and monitored, and CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contract tracing for those who were in most immediate contact with the individuals.

In related news, the CNMI is steadily making progress toward 80% of its eligible population being fully-vaccinated against COVID-19, with 32,312 people, or 76.2% of the eligible population, being fully-vaccinated as of yesterday.

Reaching 80%—a point where the CNMI can claim herd immunity against COVID-19—has been a priority of the CNMI leadership, the COVID-19 Task Force, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and vaccination campaign Road to 80, but CHCC

chief executive officer Esther Muña said Friday that the work should not stop there, as the focus now turns to protecting those ineligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines.

Muña Friday said that "herd immunity must take into account the children," and cited the recent openings of schools and the highly transmissible delta variant as more reasons to continue increasing vaccination numbers in the CNMI. "The delta variant changed the game, because now that schools have opened and [students under the age of 12] are ineligible to get vaccinated, we have to consider their protection and the protection of our CNMI bubble," said Muña.

"Herd immunity" refers to a form of indirect disease/infection protection that is achieved when a certain percentage of a population has become immune to an infection either through vaccination or past exposure to an infection/disease, reducing the chances of community spread and allowing those with no immunity to remain healthy without receiving a vaccine shot or being exposed to disease.

Muña also addressed the community's frustration with

See 3 MORE on Next Page

## NMI employers' input on workforce needs sought

The CNMI Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Agency and the CNMI State Workforce Development Board are working with Max Impacts: Maxine Laszlo Consulting to seek CNMI private sector employers' input via a Business Needs Assessment survey.

The purpose of this survey is to better understand businesses and nonprofits' current and projected employment needs so that WIA and the SWDB can best support the training, employment, and retention of employees in the CNMI.

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to com-

plete. Participation in the survey is voluntary and anonymous; survey responses will not be traced back to the survey taker or their employer and will strictly be used for aggregate reporting purposes. The survey can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/2021WIASurvey>.

Employers are asked to complete the survey no later than Friday, Aug. 27, 2021. Employers who complete the survey will be entered in a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to the restaurant of their choice (2 drawings for Saipan, 1 for Rota, and 1 for Tinian). (PR)



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The CNMI Department of Labor paid out over \$3 million in unemployment benefits on

Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021, in benefits to claimants for Pandemic Unemployment Assis-

## Woman gets 1-year probation for visa fraud

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has sentenced a woman to a one-year probation after she pleaded guilty to forging a visa application.

During her hearing last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Svetlana M. Maala to one-year probation after she pleaded guilty to forging a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services notice form.

The court also imposed a \$100 special assessment fee on Maala.

Pursuant to her sentence, Maala will remain released, but her passport will be forwarded

to immigration authorities.

According to court documents, Maala voluntarily signed a plea agreement back in April and in doing so, Maala pleaded guilty to one count of fraud and misuse of visa.

As part of the plea agreement, the U.S. government agreed not to file additional charges against her.

The U.S. government, through assistant U.S. Attorney Garth Backe, said with the charges filed against her, Maala faced a possible maximum penalty of not more than 10 years imprisonment; a fine not to exceed \$250,000; not more than a three-year term of supervised release; and a \$100 special penal assessment.

The plea agreement stated that back in June 7, 2018, Maala, a Philippine national, knowingly counterfeited and altered a form 1-797 by sending another individual's form 1-797 to a second individual in the Philippines, and requested that it be photocopied to show that it belonged to her.

In her plea agreement, Maala admitted to knowing that the form 1-797 was not hers and was intending to use it as proof of her eligibility to stay and work in the U.S. *(Kimberly B. Esmores)*

### ARMATECH



Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com  
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

### 3 MORE

From Page 2

how the CNMI's COVID-19 policies have been frequently changing of late, and explains that the changes come in preparation of and in response to the delta variant and how it is currently affecting the United States.

"I want to express that we understand the frustration about how the pandemic keeps changing our situation, but the delta variant is spreading to the point where hospital rooms [in the U.S.] are unavailable and treatments are being delayed. In a single hospital system [here in the CNMI] and a high number of residents with underlying conditions, the CNMI cannot take chances and put the large number of unvaccinated at risk, which is still over 20,000," said Muña.

## DOL releases \$3M unemployment benefits

tance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation programs.

This recent disbursement included payments for PUA 2 (CAA) and PUA 3 (ARPA) to more than 500 PUA applicants in the CNMI.

"Our goal has never changed since the onset of the programs in the Marianas—to ensure that we keep the integrity of the programs intact and disburse funds as quickly as possible in line with federal regulations," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente.

CNMI DOL is continuing to resolve claimant issues and

all unpaid claims, while also working with claimants to provide necessary qualifying documents.

CNMI DOL is still accepting initial applications and weekly claims certification submissions online via Hire-marianas.com or in-person at DOL building No. 1334 on Capital Hill.

PUA applicants are reminded, that as a condition for receiving PUA, continuing recipients must conduct three or more work search contacts or activities every week and keep a log or record of the work search contacts.

All individuals with PUA claims inquiries are encouraged to email [info@puamarianas.com](mailto:info@puamarianas.com) or call the following numbers for inquiries on their claims (hours of operation Monday-Friday, 8am to 4pm, except on local or federal holidays):

All individuals with PUA claims inquiries are encouraged to email [info@puamarianas.com](mailto:info@puamarianas.com) or call the following numbers for inquiries on their claims (hours of operation Monday-Friday, 8am to 4pm, except on local or federal holidays): 322-8870, 322-8871, 322-8872, 322-8873, 322-

8874, 322-8876

Additional Department of Labor telephones:

■ Administrative Services 664-3196/322-994

■ Division of Employment Services 664-3190/322-9934/664-3298

■ Enforcement 322-4365/ 323-9940

■ Benefits Payments Control Unit 322-9943/9944

■ PUA Fraud Hotline 989-9095

■ Administrative Hearing Office 664-3290/3291

■ OSHA 664-3156/3157

■ WIOA 664-1708/1757

For more information, contact the PUA COM Center at the numbers listed or send an email to [info@puamarianas.com](mailto:info@puamarianas.com). **(PR)**

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# Seabees help clean up NMC Tinian

U.S. Navy Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5's Detail Tinian and U.S. Marines

assigned to 7th Engineer Support Battalion assisted the local community of Tinian by clearing land and

## 'DPL's \$4.1M being reserved for FY 2020 budget'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Public Lands Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar said they have already remitted \$516,596 reserved for Homestead Projects to the Marianas Public Land Trust, but will not remit to MPLT its \$4.1 million reserved for the fiscal year 2020 budget. In his July 2, 2021 response to MPLT board of trustees chair Martin B. Ada's demand letter, Igisomar said the \$516,596 funds consist of appropriations requested from the Legislature as part of DPL's FY 2018 and FY 2019 budget requests pursuant to the

### » Igisomar says \$516,596 reserved for Homestead Projects already remitted to MPLT

Commonwealth Code.

Igisomar said the Commonwealth Code allows DPL to request "sums required to be held in reserve for approved homesteads or other department programs in the next two fiscal years."

Although the funds were not spent during the years they were requested, they were nevertheless encumbered for appropriated homestead programs, he said.

obstacles at the Northern Marianas College Tinian campus last July 28.

The Seabees and Marines cleared 50 cubic yards of land and leveled the area surrounding the northern tip of the college. Seabees provided equipment,

However, Igisomar said, their counsel did advise them to remit the funds to MPLT.

Last July 29, Igisomar notified Ada that \$516,596 had been remitted to MPLT's bank account via fund transfer a day before.

Regarding DPL's FY 2020 budget in the amount of \$4,103,365, the DPL secretary said these funds consist of revenues received by DPL for deposit into the "DPL Operations Fund" and are awaiting appropriation.

A longer version of this story  
is available at  
[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## GCEA

From Page 1

all pledged to beautify and maintain 60 various tourist and community sites in the CNMI. PPP is one of the GCEA's top initiatives that seeks to foster meaningful partnerships between the public sector and the private sector through beautifying and maintaining various sites in the CNMI.

The Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge—

which was first proposed by Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Guerrero and launched by the Marianas Visitors Authority—calls for companies, organizations, and individuals to pledge to commit to promoting and preserving the CNMI's local culture, traditions, and values through their day-to-day operations.

In his remarks, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recognized GCEA co-chair and TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan and the council for its effort and commitment to

bettering the CNMI, and added that it takes a collective effort to turn the CNMI into a world-class travel destination. "Making the CNMI a world-class destination is not easy, it's not an easy road. We need everyone's participation. ...Tourism is everyone's business, it's our livelihood, it's our health, it's what we bring in and leave for our next generation," said Torres.

A longer version of this story  
is available at  
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## BUDGET

From Page 1

\$4,487,022 budget for the Department of Public Lands, the grand total revenue available for appropriation is \$103,384,323.

Senate floor leader Vinnie Vinson Flores Sablan (R-Saipan) said Friday that the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) did leave several of the substantial inclusions in the House budget bill's version, but made some adjustments to some of the numbers.

Under the Senate's version of House Bill 22-74, House Draft 3, it says the Legislature concurs with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' planned use for the ARPA funds, as provided in Volume 4 of the governor's budget submission in April 2021 and amended in July 2021, and the ARPA Section 602 to fund salary adjustments for government employees in fiscal year 2022.

This provision renders moot Rep. Donald M. Manglona's (Ind-Rota) House Bill 22-33 that seeks to give the Legislature appropriation powers over the CNMI's share of ARPA money. The Senate has not acted on that bill.

The Senate version includes three attachments—Schedule A general local funds, Schedule B ARPA funds, and Schedule C combined general local funds and ARPA funds.

What the Senate did was take Volume 4 of the governor's submission of the ARPA funds, and embedded it into the departments and agencies and municipalities and the different branches of government.

For the Judiciary Branch, the Sen-

ate version appropriates \$5,943,744 from the general fund and \$2,107,135 from ARPA funds, for a combined total of \$8,050,879.

For the Legislature, the Senate appropriated \$6,805,005 from general funds and \$2,605,594 from ARPA funds, for a combined total of \$9,410,599.

For the Executive Branch, the Senate appropriated \$26,630,005 from general fund and \$82,627,145 from ARPA funds, for a total of \$109,257,150.

Rota is appropriated \$6,510,757 from the general funds and \$3,890,103 from ARPA funds, for a total of \$10,400,860.

Tinian and Aguiguan is appropriated \$6,462,288 from the general fund and, \$4,204,319 from ARPA funds, for a total of \$10,666,607.

The Saipan Mayor, Northern Islands Mayor, and Saipan Municipal Council are appropriated \$2,084,003 from the general fund and \$1,727,581 from ARPA funds, for a total of \$3,811,584.

For board and commissions, \$1,066,780 is appropriated from general funds and \$1,386,667 from ARPA funds, for a total of \$2,453,447.

For independent programs, \$10,654,522 is appropriated from general funds and \$47,193,143 from ARPA funds, for a total of \$57,847,665.

For other programs: (Transfers out to agencies), \$32,740,197 is appropriated from general funds and \$28,807,815 from ARPA funds, for a total of \$61,548,012.

Among the highlights of the Senate's version is that the 1% Public Auditor's Fee shall not be withheld for the Legislature, Public School System, the Northern Marianas Col-

lege, and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

The other highlights include the following:

■ The governor, via executive order, emergency order, or otherwise, shall not delegate the capacity or power to reprogram or any other manner exercise any authority or control over the funds to any person or entity unless authorized by law.

■ Of the funds appropriated under a Business Unit, the Finance secretary shall reserve \$39,052 for the double-dipping period liability that may be owed to William S. Torres, when he served as a member of the House during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

■ Of the \$347,893 appropriated to the Veteran's Affairs Office, \$48,466 shall be used to fund the Veteran's Affairs coordinator on Tinian.

■ For Tinian and Aguiguan, the appropriations to the municipal council shall be under the expenditure authority of the municipal council chairperson.

■ In addition to other funds, \$378,444 appropriated to the Public School System shall be used exclusively for the purchase of instructional materials and shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose.

■ The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. shall administer the CNMI Medical Referral Program or its successor, including both interisland and off-island referrals.

■ The director of the Office of Personnel Management will establish personnel positions required by the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency for Medicaid Enterprise Systems approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

such as a forklift and a front-end loader, and technical support. The Seabees and Marines traded technical expertise with each other on proper use of equipment and on the attachments that accompany the equipment.

"Working alongside with the Marines from 7th ESB on this project helped us understand each other's strengths for future projects to come," said Equipment Operator 2nd Class Sean Johnson, assigned to NMCB-5.

As part of the land clearing, the Seabees and Marines removed tree stumps and covered roots. These improvements will allow for the college staff to host events and use the land safely.

"This has certainly been an experi-

ence, working with different terrain and equipment than we're used to," said Cpl. Orion De Conciliis, assigned to 7th ESB. "Nonetheless, I couldn't have asked for a better crew for this project."

NMCB-5 is the forward-deployed Indo-Pacific construction battalion. The battalion is ready to support a free and open Pacific by strengthening its network of allies and partners and providing general engineering and civil support to joint operational forces. Homeported out of Port Huemene, California, NMCB-5 has 10 detail sites deployed throughout the U.S. and Indo-Pacific area of operations. *(Petty Officer 3rd Class Cul-len Watson/NMCB 5)*



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Jimmy Rios, assigned to the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, operates a front-end loader

U.S. NAVY/CPL. ORION DE CONCILIIS



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Jimmy Rios, assigned to the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, operates a front-end loader to assist the local community of Tinian last July 28.

U.S. NAVY/CPL. ORION DE CONCILIIS

## MCS

From Page 1

award at the global level for the 2021 Toyota Dream Car Art Contest, winning not just \$5,000 for herself but also \$10,000 for her school.

At the awarding ceremony at Atkins Kroll Saipan last Saturday, Atkins Kroll sales manager Kevin Barnes said that Jeewoo Son's artwork, titled "WRAP CAR," stood out from 1,190,000 entries from 75 countries and regions.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Atkins Kroll Saipan received 265 submissions from Saipan and Guam, Barnes said.

Son's drawing and that of eight others moved on to the global level of the contest.

Barnes handed Son the Mobility for All award plaque and Toyota Motor Corp.'s check for \$5,000.

Son, who said it was her mother who informed her that she won at the global level, said it took her one week to finish her drawing. She has been drawing more than 10 years now and also won the same contest in 2018 at the Saipan level.

Her mother, Ju Young Lee, also loves to draw.

Son's winning entry, called "World, Rescue, Assist, Protect," or WRAP, is a car that saves and cures people from all natural disasters and viruses on Earth.

The car can fly so it's easy for people far away to rescue and remove obstacles and move people inside safely. The interior of the car is equipped with all the facilities for everyone to live safely and comfortably.

Barnes also presented Toyota Motor Corp.'s \$10,000 check to Son's school, Mount Carmel Catholic School, to further develop the school's future inventors, thinkers, and innovators. Mount Carmel vice principal Filmah Buenaflor received the check.

"On behalf of everyone here at Atkins Kroll Saipan, congratulations Jeewoo Son and Mount Carmel Catholic School. We hope you continue to explore your dreams," Barnes said.

Buenaflor said they are very honored with Son winning at the global level and that the \$10,000 cash award will help Mount Carmel's art classes.

Barnes said the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest is held for children all over the world to draw their "Dream Car." As many as 6.2 million children from 100 countries/regions have participated since 2004.

Earlier this year, Atkins Kroll Toyota invited children from all over the Marianas to share ideas about the future of mobility using their imagination and drawing their dream cars.

A longer version of this story  
is available at  
[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



# Next Tinian BBB festival in July 2022; Chief Taga Day in October

## Bunuelos eating contest at Taste of the Marianas

Craving *kamuti* (sweet potato)? The 22nd Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on Aug. 27 will feature a *bunuelos* kamuti eating contest on its final night.

The annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority will be held at Garapan Fishing Base on Saipan and features international cuisines, live entertainment, and arts and crafts sales. The festival will begin at 4pm on the first day (Aug. 27) and at 5 pm on Aug. 28 and 29, ending at 10pm on all three days. Twenty food and two beverage vendors are confirmed for the festival.

The contest is open to the first 10 registrants ages 18 and older and challenges participants to eat the most *bunuelos kamuti* in 30 minutes or to be the first to finish 4 lbs. of the deep-fried dessert.

The event will also feature the *Kadun Pika* Cooking Contest on Aug. 27 and the *Eska-beche* Cooking Contest on Aug. 28. Registration forms are available on The Marianas Calendar at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com), and cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

*Kadun pika* is stewing chicken with a healthy dose of garlic and other seasoning, including *donne*, the potent local hot pepper. *Eska-beche* is fish dish with a vinegar-based sauce and fresh vegetables.

"Registration for all contests is still open, and we encourage all chefs and cooks to sign up today for chance to share their talent and win some great cash prizes," said MVA managing director Priscilla Maratita Iakopo. "Planning for Taste is proceeding smoothly with our Community Projects team. We want to assure the public that we will be expanding the festival grounds to allow more social distancing. We're looking forward to a great event and ask everyone's cooperation with the COVID protocols that will be enforced at this year's event."

There will be two points of entry at the north and south sides of Garapan Fishing Base, and all attendees must undergo a temperature check, and wear a wristband at the event. Vendors will accept both Taste of the Marianas tokens or cash; however, tokens will not be sold this year.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez at [rvillagomez@mymarianas.com](mailto:rvillagomez@mymarianas.com) or 664-3200. (PR)

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With the smashing debut of the inaugural Tinian Beef, Beer & Bands Festival, the Tinian leadership has decided to make it an annual event as part of efforts to have more events on its festival calendar to attract visitors throughout the year.

The food festival, which

highlighted Tinian's signature export of beef, joins three other major events on the island and will be held again next summer in July 2022.

Joseph Hocog, who is event coordinator for the Tinian Mayor's Office, said the inclusion of BBB into Tinian's festival calendar now means that Tinian has events to highlight the island's main attractions:

Tinian hot peppers, beef, its church, and Chief Taga.

"[BBB] is another event for our visitors to look forward to, participate in, and enjoy our culture, customs, and industries here on Tinian," said Hocog.

Next up for Tinian in the third week of October this year will be Gineptin Ha'anen Taga Day (Chief Taga Day), or Taga Fest, which was cancelled last year

due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Hocog, there are no details for now on what will be part of this year's festivities, as he and Tinian leadership are working through different segments of the festival. Chief Taga Day was last held from

Oct. 1 to 6, 2019.

Also on Tinian's festival calendar is the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival or "Pika Fest" in February, the San Jose Fiesta on the first weekend of May, and Chief Taga Day on the third week of October.

## Special election for Precinct 3 on Oct. 16

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres proclaimed last Thursday a special election for Precinct 3 to fill the seat left vacant with the sudden passing of Rep. Ivan A. Blanco, who passed away on July 23, 2021. The special election shall be held on Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021.

The proclamation states that Section 9 of Article II of the CNMI Constitution provides that a vacancy in the Legislature shall be filled by a special election "if one-half or more of the term remains."

Blanco was elected to the House of Representatives of

the 22nd Legislature from Precinct 3 in the 2020 general election. On Aug. 9, 2021, House Speaker Edmund Villagomez notified Torres that "[t]he untimely passing of the Honorable Ivan A. Blanco, Precinct 3 on Friday, 23 July 2021, resulted a vacancy for Election Precinct 3 of the Third Senatorial District."

With the term remaining in Blanco's vacated seat greater than one-half of his two-year term, it therefore must be filled by a special election.

All nomination petitions for the special election shall be filed

with the Commonwealth Election Commission on or before Sept. 3, 2021, and the commission shall act on the petitions on or before Sept. 15, 2021.

The commission shall designate and publicize the polling places for the special election no later than 15 days prior to the special election; establish all other deadlines associated with the special election; and cause a copy of the proclamation to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth and to be posted in Precinct 3. (Saipan Tribune)

## CUC accepts NMI stimulus card for utility bills and other charges

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. assured last week that it accepts the CNMI stimulus card as payment for utility bills, installation, and other fees and charges, including pre-pay load.

However, the stimulus cards cannot be used to directly purchase prepaid electricity usage online through CUC's PayGo portal due to the stimulus cards' "local restrictions." To resolve this, customers can "visit a CUC payment branch on any island and a CUC representative can assist you to pre-pay load for your PayGo account."

The stimulus cards are geo-restricted to purchases within the CNMI, as the intention of the stimulus cards is to boost CNMI-based businesses, according to a Frequently Asked Questions section of the CNMI Department of Finance website. Although CUC is CNMI-based, the main website for PayGo is U.S.-based, and as such a transaction on the PayGo website using the stimulus card will be barred.

PayGo is an online utilities-billing solution used by utilities companies throughout the United States to offer customers pre-paid or post-paid account options for utilities payments.

*Hafa Adai!*  
**Saipan Tribune**  
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## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-21-037

#### A&E SERVICES FOR TINIAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) & ROTA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP)

#### PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) and Environmental Impact Assessment for Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) on Tinian and Rota. The services shall include preparation of the PER as per USDA RUS Bulletin 1780-2, an Environmental Assessment for submittal to the CNMI Coastal Resources Management (CRM) as a Major siting Permit Application.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior.*

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-037, A&E Services for Tinian Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) & Rota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) – Preliminary Engineering Report & Environmental Impact Assessment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m., (ChST) on September 8, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Chief Engineer at [larry.manacop@cucgov.org](mailto:larry.manacop@cucgov.org) and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

A woman who is serving a sentence of over 19 years for sex trafficking has asked the court to grant her compassionate release, fearing



#### A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### (1) HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASE COORDINATOR /SHELTER SUPERVISOR

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Sister Remedios Community Center Chalan Kanoa.

**DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:** Completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.  
**CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 AT 4:00PM**



#### COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857/58 | Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856  
Website: [www.cnmicasinocommission.com](http://www.cnmicasinocommission.com)  
Email: [info@cnmicasinocommission.com](mailto:info@cnmicasinocommission.com)



## AGENDA

\*\*\* August 26, 2021 \*\*\*

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Commission's 2nd Floor Main Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.** However, pursuant to Governor Torres' Executive Orders and Directives on the ongoing threat from the COVID-19 pandemic and limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via video conference.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

#### I. PRELIMINARIES:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes: July 29, 2021

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

#### III. REPORTS:

- Report by the Chairman
- Report by the Executive Director

#### IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

- Casino Licensee – Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") – Updates:
  - Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel ("IPR"):
    - Status of IPI's request for extension of the IGF construction deadline per CLA Amendment #6.
    - Status of Tower Cranes 1, 5 and 6 at IPR & DPW Secretary's demand letter, dated August 13, 2021
  - IPI Personnel Matters:
    - Status of Employee Payroll
    - Status of unpaid payroll & severance pay for employees already off-island
    - Others
- IPI Financial Matters:
  - Status of IPI's final Annual Audit Report (for the year ended December 31, 2020)
  - Status of the 2021 Annual Exclusive Casino License Fee due on August 12, 2021
- Other Miscellaneous Matters

#### V. OLD BUSINESS: None.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- Saipan Local Law No. 22-6 "To impose a local license fee on all electronic gaming devices as defined in Title 6 Section 3154(a)(4), inclusive of poker amusement machines on the same e-gaming premises as defined in Title 6 Section 3156(b), located within the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes".
- CCC FY2019 Audit Report by Deloitte
- CCC Internet Gaming Presentation

#### VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Consult with Legal Counsel
- Report by the CCC Divisions (Compliance, Audit and Enforcement)
- CCC Personnel Matters

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this Agenda and take action on the amended Agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary. For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via video conference, please contact the Commission at [info@cnmicasinocommission.com](mailto:info@cnmicasinocommission.com) for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.

Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero  
Chairman

## Woman in prison for sex trafficking seeks release due to COVID-19 fears

that she might contract COVID-19 while in prison.

Former karaoke bar operator Chang Ru Meng Backman, who is serving a sentence of 19 years and nine months for sex trafficking by force, fraud, and coercion, has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to grant her compassionate release and reduction of sentence because of COVID-19.

Backman said if her motion is granted, she will reside with her family in Tianjin, China, and will quarantine as required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and by the U.S. attorney general's directives.

Backman said her family can support her financially during her home confinement, adding that she will obtain private health insurance as soon as she is released.

Backman claims that if no action is taken on her request, the outcome could be devastating.

"Coronavirus is known to cause serious health complications for individuals with, and worse for, pre-existing conditions. A coronavirus exposure is the equivalent of a death sentence that this court did not impose," she said.

If not released from custody before the virus runs rampant in her prison, Backman claims she will be at risk of contracting the disease and suffering serious health complications.

"The coronavirus is a particular threat to prison populations because of the circumstances of confinement and the inmates' proximity to each other. It is estimated that more than 70% of all federal prisoners tested positive for COVID-19," she said.

In her first attempt to request compassionate release back in March 2021, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona denied Backman's request to appoint her a federal public defender to assist her in formally filing for compassionate release.

Manglona said that, although the court has discretion to appoint counsel, there is no constitutional right to appoint counsel in post-conviction proceedings.

According to court documents, Backman was convicted after a jury trial in June 2013 for sex trafficking.



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1

#### Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1 Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than September 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 24, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Manager, Yvonne C. Ogunoro via email address [yvonne.ogunoro@cucgov.org](mailto:yvonne.ogunoro@cucgov.org), CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address [richard.cano@cucgov.org](mailto:richard.cano@cucgov.org) and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



# CNMI is added to DOT's new Marine Highway designation

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration has designated six new Marine Highway Projects and a new Marine Highway Route as part of the America's Marine Highway Program that will, among others, allow the expansion of existing containerized freight service between Guam and the CNMI.

The AMHP encourages the use of U.S. navigable waterways for the movement of freight and people as an alternative to land-based transportation.

A designation makes projects on Marine Highway Routes eligible for grants when AMHP funding is available. In May, the department announced the availability of nearly \$11 million in grant funding through the AMHP, which will be awarded to advance marine highway projects previously designated by the Secretary of Transportation.

"These new project designations will improve the movement of freight by water all around the nation, including along our coasts, on our inland waterways, and to

Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands," said acting maritime administrator Lucinda Lessley. "Making better use of our inland waterways can boost America's maritime industry and create jobs while cutting emissions and traffic congestion."

Since its inception, the AMHP has designated 46 Marine Highway Projects.

The Designation of the Guam and the CNMI Route will allow the expansion of existing containerized freight service between Guam and the CNMI's main islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. Nearly all commodities and household and commercial goods needed by local residents—including food, clothing, fuel, vehicles, construction materials, and medical supplies—are transported through the islands' seaports.

The six project designations include the CNMI Freight Improvement Project: The designation of the CNMI project will support the movement of containers between the Port of Guam and Commonwealth Port Authority ports of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The CNMI is exploring the expansion of

its maritime capacities for the shipping of inter-island cargo and commodities to increase frequency and reduce shipping costs.

The Guam Marine Transportation Enhancement Initiative will expand and promote inbound and outbound cargo within the islands. Service providers transporting freight utilize U.S. ports in Hawaii and the West Coast before making their way through Guam and the CNMI. The Port of Guam operates as the only commercial seaport on the island and serves the regional population of more than 225,000, including communities on the neighboring islands in the CNMI.

The other project designations are the M-5 Coastal Connector (California/Oregon/Washington; Missouri River Container on Barge Project; Port Raritan Terminal Facility (New Jersey); and M-90 Transbay Freight Service Project (Wisconsin). *(Marine Log)*

*(This article was originally published in <https://www.marinelog.com/inland-coastal/marad-makes-new-marine-highway-designations/>)*



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)**  
 Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp) • Email: [dpl@dpl.gov.mp](mailto:dpl@dpl.gov.mp)

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 012 E 02, containing an area of approximately 3,140 square meters, more or less, and Lot 012 E 03, containing an area of approximately 3,060 square meters, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp) for inspection.
  - The prospective lessee is Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation. The lists of officers for Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation are Zuo, Lina, as President / Treasurer, Wang, Chun-Chi, as Vice President and Zhang Jun, as Secretary.
  - The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation, mainly Zhang Jun.
  - The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of a business to produce stainless steel water tanks and build steel structure factory buildings.
- The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.
- The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.
- A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp)
  - The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
  - The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 25, 2021 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

## NUTISIA PUT I MANMAPROPONI NA ATKILON NU TĀNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku mannānā'i nutisia guini put i intension-fihia para u ma'atila metton na tanu' pupbluku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariānas. Maseha hāyi na pattida ni intirisao gi halum henerat pupbluku siña muna'hālum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimonium kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbluku. Kumu mapribeni mās mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i tinatitiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisisisa para u mapupblika.

- I mapropni na atkilon tanu' pupbluku madiskribi kumu Lot 012 E 02, ni kunsissisti kasi 3,140 square meters, mās pat menus, yan Lot 012 E 03, ni kunsissisti kasi 3,060 square meters, ni gaigi gi hālum Lower Base, iya Saipan. I kopian pāttin i lugāt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku yan i website gi [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp) para inspeksion.
  - I prospective lessee i Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation. I listan ufisiāt siha para i Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation si Zuo, Lina, komu Presidenti/Tresurāru, Wang, Chun-Chi, komu Sigundu Presidenti yan si Zhang Jun, komu Sekritāriu.
  - I mapropni na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginin manegosiu ni manuifisiāt yan direktot nu Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation, mayutmenti as Zhang Jun.
  - I lessee debi na u usa i lugāt put atyu ha' na rason nu i bisnis ni para u prudusi "stainless steel" na tānkin hānum yan hinātsan "steel structure factory buildings."
- I tema nu i mapropni na kontrātan atkilon sa bentsingku (25) āñus na tiempu.
- I mapropni na atkilon gi kada' sākkan gi durāntin teman kontrātan i atkilon mapega gi putsientus nu i bālin "appraised fair market" i propiedat yan i aplikao na putsientu nu i Business Gross Receipts gi halum i regulasion DPL.
- I kopian nu i mapropni na kuntrātan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; osino i primet (1st) na bibiendan i PM Building, giya Tinian. I kopia managuaha lokkui' "online" gi [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp)
  - I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku tāya marisibi ni hāfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atila i suhetu na tanu' pupbluku gi Lower Base, iya Saipan.
  - I Sekritārian Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku debi na u akseptā tinigi' upiñon, infotmasion, testimonium kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manitrisāo na pattida siha gi pat āntis di Agosto 25, 2021 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

## ARONGORONG REEL MANGEMANGIL POMMWOL ATKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Táilil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mǎngemángil rebwe atkilaay akkáaw faluweer toulap ilól Seipél, Commonwealth Téel Falúw kka Efang ilól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngäre angingi reel pommwol atkiloónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sǎngi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatéewow.

- Pommwol atkiloónol faluweer toulap e bwááló bwe Lot 012 E 02, e bwáá bwe 3,140 reel square meters, elapeló ngäre eghus, me Lot 012 E 03 e bwáá bwe 3,060 reel square meters, e lo Lower Base, Seipél. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website me [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp) ngäre u mwuschel amwuri.
  - Pommwol schóól atkiloón nge Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation. List-al officers ngáli Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation nge Zuo, Lina bwe President/Treasurer, Wang, Chun-Chi, bwe Vice President me Zhang Jun, bwe Sekkretóoriyo.
  - Pommwol atkiloón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sǎngi officers me directors sǎngi Ji Cheng (USA) Corporation, spesiamente Zhang Jun.
  - Schóól atkiloón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli fféerúl "stainless steel water tanks" me káyúl "steel structure factory buildings". Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkiloónol Faluweer Toulap nge reweigh me limoow (25) ráagh.
- Pommwol atkiloónol ghal ráagh atol abwungubwungúl atkiloón nge e lo reel "percentage" sǎngi "appraised fair market value" reel falúw fengál me "applicable percentage of Business gross Receipts" ilól mwóghutughutúl DPL.
- Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkiloón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, aplómwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngäre 1st floor reel PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ewal yoar pappidil mille online me [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp)
  - Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli atkiloón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me Lower Base, Seipél.
  - Sekkretóoriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mǎngemáng, views, angii ngäre pommw iye re siiweli sǎngi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngäre mmwalil Agosto 25, 2021 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngäre Tchiliyól.



## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950  
 Tel: (670) 664-2587 Fax: (670) 664-2571

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program has expanded the definition of Front Liners/Essential Workers. The expanded definition now include:

- Child protective service workers: those who work in the child care welfare system and other critical social services;
- Workers in the hotel industry;
- Field workers from utility, water, and waste water companies;
- Legally operating transportation services;
- Public works employees, including parts and recreation and private or other autonomous agencies who conduct field work and inspections;
- Communications and information technology workers;
- Hazardous materials workers
- Financial services and lending institutions;
- Food delivery services;
- Employees working at the airport and seaport;
- Restaurant workers and those who work in the food industry.

Front liners/essential workers who may not necessarily meet income guidelines for the family may still qualify. For more information regarding eligibility requirements, please call **CCDF Eligibility Workers, Genevieve Guerrero, at 664-2576** or email at [dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com](mailto:dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com) or **Joella Rosario, at 664-2575** or email at [ccd.jrosario@gmail.com](mailto:ccd.jrosario@gmail.com). You may also want to visit the [cnmiclp.gov.mp](http://cnmiclp.gov.mp) to download the CCDF Waitlist Application Packet.

/S/  
 Maribel D. Loste  
 CCDF Director

/S/  
 Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero  
 DCCA Secretary





# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 165

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,

Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI

Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Needles and noses: Vaccines and masks are a must to beating COVID

Shifting away from his Afghan debacle, President Joe Biden on Wednesday went back to that other war, COVID-19, with a two-prong attack on the enemy: vaccines and masks. This fight cannot be victorious unless all Americans join together—so we urge Donald Trump, winner of 74 million votes, to be patriotic and get his booster shot before the cameras and urge his followers to follow him. He can even get Tucker Carlson to join him and call it a party.

Pleading to the 30% of eligible Americans 12 and older who haven't gotten the vaccines, Biden rightly said that those 85 million people are the reservoir for the disease to thrive in. Almost all the COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths are from that group. There is every reason to get the protection and no good excuse to avoid it.

He is using his authority to order that in all nursing homes receiving Medicare or Medicaid funds—just about all of them—employees must be vaccinated, adding to the no jab, no job movement spreading among private employers.

Meantime, the 70% who have gotten the lifesaving shots will wisely start getting their boosters eight months after the completion of their initial round. The start date is Sept. 20, which is eight months since Jan. 20 and Trump and his wife had their vaccinations in January before the end of his term. Trump might even get an invite to return to the White House for the shot; Biden, in the name of unity, should welcome that if his predecessor is amenable.

As the majority gets additional protection, it's always a good time for the unprotected to join in. The main group who can't are kids under 12, which is why masks in schools are essential. To his further credit, Biden is taking action to stop governors like Florida's reckless Ron DeSantis from interfering with local schools that want to require masks. The one-two-punch of vaccines and masks are our way—our only way—to defeat COVID-19.

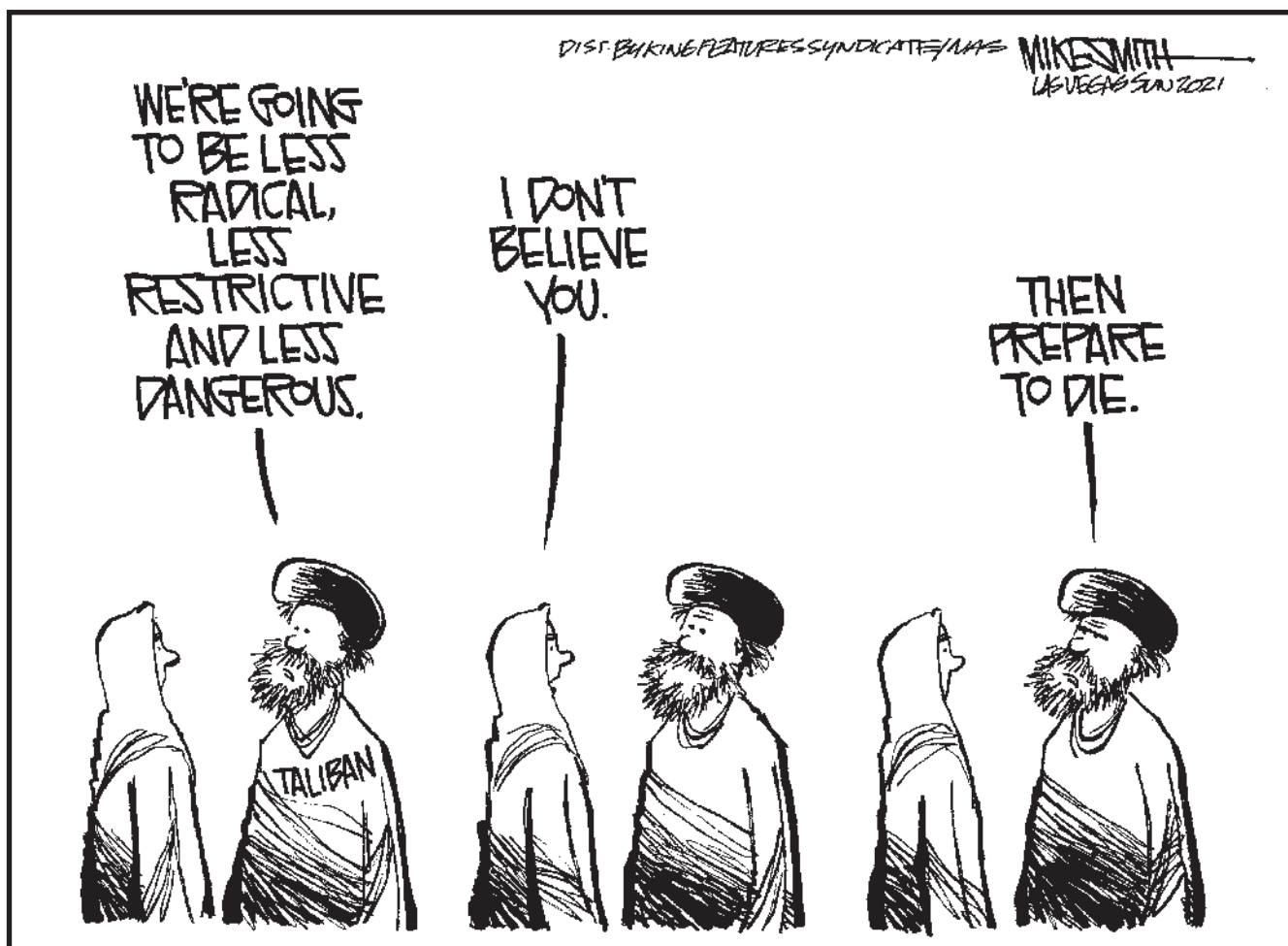
©2021 New York Daily News

### Employers and unions should discuss vaccine mandates

The courts seem to be holding that employers can require workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment, but things get more complicated when there is a labor union involved.

Rather than avoid the issue, employers and unions should be talking about how to make a vaccine-for-all protocol work.

Allegheny County, for example, is requiring vaccinations of new employees only, while the largely unionized county workforce will not be subject to the same mandate. Current employees who are not vaccinated will be required to wear a mask and undergo regular testing.

See **EMPLOYERS** on next page

## I should have listened to my dad about Afghanistan

The fall of Kabul reminds me of an argument I had with my father on Thanksgiving Day of 2001. The U.S. had invaded Afghanistan and swept away the Taliban. The question was what to do next.

My father, who taught international relations at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, learned Dari and went to Afghanistan in 1969, had a simple answer: U.S. forces should leave the country immediately.

I thought I knew better. "But then the Taliban will come back," I objected.

"That's possible," my father acknowledged.

"So we need to stay to establish a functioning government," I continued.

"It can't be done," my father explained.

He didn't just mean that conquerors from Alexander the Great to the British Empire to the Soviet Union had failed.

He meant that even Afghans had never really run their country from the center. When my parents had been there in 1969, the king was effectively little more than the mayor of Kabul. My father remembered him driving around the putative capital city at the wheel of a Volkswagen Beetle.

On the road to Herat, my parents had encountered tribesmen who, my father recalled, were so unaware of the affairs of the country as a whole that they expressed no interest in the word "Afghanistan"—or maybe they had never heard the word at all.

All this failed to impress me at that Thanksgiving dinner 20 years ago. The U.S., I insisted, had just suffered the worst attack on its mainland in its 200-year existence. We had a fundamental interest, indeed a moral obligation, to succeed where others had failed. Instead of conceding to the return of warlords and dictators and the oppression of women, as we had traditionally done throughout the Muslim world, the time had come to embrace and enable democratic rule.

My father's last argument was borrowed from the vocabulary of moral philosophy. Ought implies can, he proposed. You can only have a moral or ethical obligation to do something if it's actually possible to do it. Governing Afghanistan as a unified country was impossible. So it couldn't be anybody's moral duty to achieve it.

I walked away sure that my father was stuck in old ways of thinking. I was wrong. In retrospect, it's obvious that he was right.

If the U.S. effort in Afghanistan was doomed from the start, a conclusion that is suddenly now emerging as conventional wisdom, then the return of the Taliban was always inevitable. What isn't inevitable is that Afghanistan will become a terrorist haven again, or that the oppression of women will return to the medieval depths of the first period of Taliban rule.

By **NOAH FELDMAN**

Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and host of the podcast Deep Background. He is a professor of law at Harvard University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter. His books include *The Three Lives of James Madison: Genius, Partisan, President*.



When I asked my father 20 years ago how the U.S. could prevent the Taliban from harboring al-Qaeda, he said simply, "If they do, you can always bomb again—or even invade and chase them out."

The same logic of deterrence still applies. If the Taliban were to welcome terrorists who to intend to strike the U.S. or other targets, the U.S. could retaliate from the air. We know that a relatively light U.S. force could still drive out the Taliban, even if only for a time. But the costs of such an attack would give the Taliban reason to avoid the terrorist entanglements that kept them out of power for two decades.

When it comes to treatment of women, the Taliban also have some modest incentive to allow schooling, a change from their first incarnation. Then, the Taliban sought to achieve legitimacy through strict imposition of a particular interpretation of Islamic law plus a strict application of the traditional Pashtun cultural norms known as the Pashtun wali, which denied women any rights in the public sphere. Today, the Taliban can boast the legitimacy that comes from having defeated the U.S., still the world's most powerful military, and having "liberated" Afghanistan from foreign control.

So maybe the Taliban can afford to be a little more moderate in their treatment of women—a possibility that can be observed in their officially stated policy, which allows women and girls to study.

I'm concerned now, as I was in 2001, about the American responsibility to the Afghan people. I'm worried that the administration of President Joe Biden acted too precipitously in withdrawing U.S. troops and leaving loyal friends to a grisly fate.

My father, however, thinks, as he did two decades ago, that "it had to be done."

I'm no longer inclined to argue with him. Now I understand that trying to do impossible things tends to lead to bad results for everyone. And that it's wise to listen to your father.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Air Force

The United States Air Force is a relatively new branch of the American armed forces when compared to the Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. At the ripe young age of about 74 years old and staffed by several hundred thousand people, the Air Force prides itself on being able to fly anywhere in the world on a moment's notice to carry out a variety of offensive and defensive missions, using conventional and nuclear weapons close-in and from afar.

America's ability to support and wage war cannot be fulfilled without the robust airpower and its supporting apparatus that the Air Force maintains.

The Air Force has installations worldwide. This is needed to quickly project deadly military power throughout the globe in record times. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan could not have been carried out by the Army, Navy, and the Marine Corps without Air Force assets, personnel and logistical support needed to enable bombers, fighters, cargo planes, and unmanned airborne systems to fly into and out of operational areas.

### Airpower and the Marianas Islands

For better and for worse, our Marianas Islands and Micronesian region have been a priceless basing location for American airpower for several decades. As most of us are aware, Tinian is the only place in the world where terminal preparations and actual launches of offensive aircraft missions to drop nuclear weapons took place. Guam was instrumental in providing key support actions sponsored by the American national government, to prepare Tinian for nuclear bombing strikes against Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan.

### Today's Air Force

Today, the U.S. Air Force seeks to maintain total control of the skies, cyberspace, and outer space environments. The Air Force

continually assists infantry and ground-based military personnel and produces and consumes huge amounts of intelligence information. The Air Force has a robust inventory of approximately 10 different kinds of aircraft fleets scattered across the globe, totaling upwards of 5,000 planes and systems. The U.S. Space Force, which was recently established, falls under the operational control and decision-making structures of the Air Force.

### How the Marianas Islands has and continues to support global Air Force operations

Andersen Air Force base has been and remains one of the world's most important and strategically located military bases from the American national government point of view. Andersen has massive petroleum and associated storage and ordnance facilities that allow the Air Force to replenish, maintain, initiate, and complete massive offensive and defensive operations worldwide.

Andersen gives the Air Force the ability to have and keep open a 24/7 aircraft gas station, parking facility, training complex, and maintenance locale that further enables the United States military to be ready for war.

Andersen has the capacity to receive refugees, civilians and military personnel who were evacuated, displaced, or injured elsewhere. Andersen provides the Air Force with a base of operations where American and allied special operations, paramilitary, contracted personnel, rockets, missiles, and unmanned aircraft can be housed, dispatched, and launched in direct support of U.S. and multinational policy objectives.

Andersen has also been the home of the air leg of America's nuclear weapons triad where nuclear strike missions can be launched from Guam at identified targets located anywhere on planet earth.

### Chamorros and the collective Pacific Islander presence in the Air Force

Thousands of Chamorros have joined the ranks of the Air Force since its establishment over seven decades ago. As is the case with Chamorros serving in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, and intelligence communities, our families continue to demonstrate excellence through smart and hard work no matter their place within the total Air Force organization. Former Guam governor Carl Gutierrez and former Guam lieutenant governor Eddie Reyes (difunto) represents just one snapshot of two outstand-

## RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.*

ing airmen who went on to do great things for the community.

Guam also houses an outstanding collection of Air Force reserve and National Guard units that have remained on the radar screens of the most senior Air Force officials. On two separate occasions, the writer of this article was told unsolicited by an Air Force colonel, an Air Force secretary, and an Air Force four-star general officer that Guam based reserve and National Guard personnel of Pacific Islander ancestry were among the very finest and most outstanding airmen they have encountered.

And as is the case with the Guam-based Army Reserve and National Guard units, the Air Force side of the house provides professional, educational, and upward economic mobility opportunities for family members, and villagers, with heavy strings attached.

### Yet environmental and human injustices persist

There are downsides to everything, and this does not escape the U.S. government, military, or the American Air Force. Air Force operations in Guam have caused tremendous environmental damage to our island over several decades, creating environmental risk factors that have exposed and brought about rare cancers and other conditions previously not seen amongst our Chamorro people.

We must not forget that our island's sole source aquifer was damaged and initially compromised from massive wartime airpower operations dating back to Army Air Corps activities that took place in Guam during the 1940s.

We must not forget that many of our families also lost partial or complete access and control of their ancestral lands due to unilateral American War Department decisions in the 1940s to take the most fertile, valuable, and beautiful portions of the island for military use, all without the prior, written, or formal consent of our ancient Chamorro clans.

## LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.*



## The Delta Virus Deadly Variant

The Delta variant floods the US, deaths rise children on intubators breathe their last breath now DVD stands for Delta Variant Deaths variant armor: vaccine interior, mask exterior sans souci ouchy, anti vax crowd gets grouchy they say negative things about Doctor Fauci for most senior citizens who are still around Covid will confound with vaccine varieties virus mutants merge, an international surge we need a total vaccinated worldwide purge shots in arms sought, more vaccines bought vaccination refusers now with fear are fraught follow safety norms, stop spread or more dead 45's Covid 19 policy was more obfuscation 46's policy generally alleviates that situation intubated children all along the Mississippi anti vaxxers ignore the voracious Delta variant.

## To the people of the Northern Mariana Islands

You have elected me to represent you in the U.S. Congress for seven terms. I shall never, ever, forget this extraordinary privilege and will forever be grateful to you.

Recently, some of you have asked me to run for governor. Others advise that my seniority in Congress gives me the standing there to be of most use to the people.

Whichever road I choose, my goal will always be to help our islands and all who live here. And I know, whichever road I choose, ultimately the people will decide.

The 2022 election, however, is over a year away.

In the meantime, there is work to do in Congress and much to be accomplished for the Marianas.

So many of you have already been helped through the pandemic with the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and stimulus checks and the \$500 million operating funds for the Commonwealth government and the Public School System that pay salaries and keep services going.

Looking ahead we have an infrastructure bill to pass in Congress. There is an even larger American Families Plan that could include funding to modernize our only hospital and transform our schools. We must secure the money to keep our Medicaid program running.

The Marianas is too easily left out of these actions without active representation. So, because of the time difference between

By

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the U.S. Congress.*



our home and Washington, I regularly work the midnight shift, attending caucus meetings with congressional leadership and voting in committee on legislation. That work schedule leaves little time for campaigning or planning the next election.

That is okay. I believe voters care more about what their leaders are doing for them than about slick campaign videos and expensive rallies.

So rather than working to get myself elected, I will keep working to make your life better, as I always have.

Election papers do not have to be filed until 90 days before the 2022 election. There is plenty of time for people to let me know what you want me to do next and how I can best serve you.

Stay safe.

## EMPLOYERS

From Page 8

Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald acknowledged that requiring a vaccine for all employees would involve a labor negotiation. "It becomes more complicated when it comes to collective bargaining and some other things along those lines," he told reporters.

The right direction is discussion between labor and management. In reasonable workplaces, all employees—union and management alike—should be able to reach a consensus on a public health issue. It's certain no employer wants to be the test case as to whether a collective bargaining agreement can be

amended to include a required COVID-19 vaccination. But the approach should not be adversarial but collaborative. It's for the benefit of all.

Even as there are increasing calls for mandatory vaccinations—with exceptions for religious and health reasons—as terms of employment, there is a lot of reluctance among employers to engage with their union leaders on the matter. This reluctance should be pushed aside in light of the rising number of COVID-19 cases linked to the delta variant.

This is especially pertinent in the health care sector, where doctors, nurses and other health care professionals have a higher risk of coming in contact with COVID-positive patients, as well as in public schools where the delta variant could spread quickly

in crowded classrooms among unvaccinated children.






Some unions have voiced opposition to mandated vaccines, but others seem willing to consider the matter. The president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teachers union in the country, said recently that the union, which was opposed to mandatory vaccinations, should now work with employers on the issue. Randi Weingarten's public comments on the matter came Aug. 8.

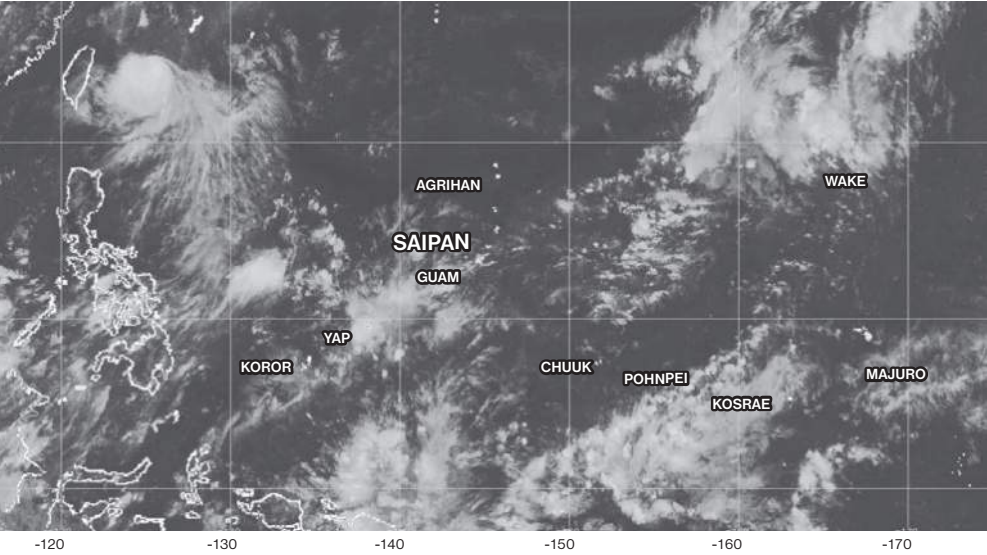
Working together: This is the right approach to a health crisis that both employers and unions are trying to navigate. The bottom line is that everyone involved wants the same outcome: a safe environment for everyone.

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# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.		Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:06 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough is draped over Guam from the WSW to ENE with gentle winds and flaring showers/thunderstorms. Water vapour imagery shows deep tropical moisture has spread northward across the Marianas with a sharp gradient in moisture near Saipan and Tinian. The Tropical Upper-Tropospheric Trough still sits overhead with a prominent upper low centered well to the northeast near 21N158E. Weak trade swell and wind waves are producing seas of 2 to 3 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	80 / 85 °F	
Palau	Cloudy	79 / 87 °F	
Yap	Mostly cloudy	79 / 87 °F	
Chuuk	Broken clouds	79 / 88 °F	
Pohnpei	Sunny	78 / 87 °F	
Kosrae	Mostly sunny	83 / 87 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83 / 87 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:27 AM	7:22 PM
Tuesday	-	7:21 AM	8:02 PM
Wednesday	-	8:12 AM	8:39 PM
Thursday	-	9:02 AM	9:16 PM
Friday	-	9:50 AM	9:52 PM

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b>				<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam
<b>GUAM-MANILA (MNL)</b>				<b>MANILA (MNL)-GUAM</b>			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5	UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable

1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



# Business

## Real estate sales down more than 80% since pandemic's start

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**T**he tourism industry is not the only sector of the economy feeling the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the real estate industry also falling on tough times, according to the president of one of the oldest and most trusted real estate companies in the CNMI.

"Since COVID-19 set in early March 2020 and suspension of tourist flights, real estate sales on Saipan have plummeted by more than 80%," said Shakir's Realty & Insurance president and principal broker Mustafa Shakir.

He said the islands are currently surviving due to federal aid, but he predicts things will get worse before things get better. "Real estate sales or interest will take at least two to five years to recover," he said.

Shakir explained that Saipan is unlike the U.S. mainland or Guam where cheap financing is easily available. "Property prices there are at all-time high but it's mostly borrowed money and people have to be cautious once interest rates start going up, as a market correction is imminent. Saipan will not be affected as much due since lending is limited by banks here and most

investors and business owners have brought in money from their home countries or other sources," he said.

He said COVID-19 has definitely affected every business on island, especially those related to tourism like Shakir's Realty & Insurance.

"We are surviving due to our repeat customers, reputation, and our way of negotiating a win-win situation for our sellers and buyers. The prices of properties are still holding up and there are no good deals available or panic selling yet. Overall, prices are down by just 15%-20%. That will change as time goes by due to worsening COVID-19 situation in Asia, our primary

market, and around the world," said Shakir.

Shakir's Realty & Insurance was established in July 20, 1993, as a subsidiary under Shakir's CNMI Inc.



Shakir

The company's primary goal is to provide service to local customers and off-island investors, mostly Koreans, during that period of time to find land, commercial, and residential properties for investment. Over time, Shakir's CNMI Inc.'s real estate division developed into a full-fledged one-stop service center to connect new investors from South Korea, Russia, and China with proper legal guidance through attorneys to



Some of the properties in the portfolio of Shakir's Realty & Insurance.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



set up companies.

"We inform them about the benefits of investing in the CNMI, connect them with local banks to provide financing options, insurance services, and guide them to realize their investment goals. This is the primary difference between us

and other real estate companies," said Shakir.

Shakir's Realty & Insurance also offers houses for first-time home buyers to work within their budget and to vacation home buyers from various countries who come during holidays to relax and enjoy

the CNMI with their families, a lot of whom have fallen in love and made Saipan their permanent home. It also has commercial properties, rental units, lands, and hotels for sale or lease and also do residential and commercial rentals.

"It is very important to have an experienced licensed real estate agent by your side to get you the best deals and who is able to understand your needs. We are in this business for more than 27 years and we thank and owe our local friends and loyal customers for their continuous support," said Shakir.

On the issue of Article 12, Shakir's stand is to keep the status quo. "Majority of the

local people feel that way and I respect that. The government should instead look at extending the lease term from 55 years to 75 years [and] that will help stimulate the local economy and give more confidence to investors to invest in the CNMI," he said.

Shakir's Realty & Insurance's office has been closed since March 2020 due to COVID-19, but it will be relocating to Garapan once a suitable space is found. Currently, they are available by phone at (670) 483-8283 and also on social media like Facebook, Instagram where they are assisting all their existing and new customers with their inquiries and needs.

## Insurance group elects new officers

The Northern Marianas Insurance Association recently elected its officers and members for 2021-2022.

Gol Corpuz, who is the Century Insurance general manager, has been elected president, while Jessica Sablan, who is with Tokio Marine/PIU supervisor, was elected NMIA vice president.

Among the other NMIA officers are Carmen Pinault of American Homes/Calvos, NMIA secretary; Catherine Tenorio, DB Insurance-First Net/Moylans general manager Saipan branch, NMIA director; Suzi Perez, Aioi/Takagi & Associates branch manager, NMIA treasurer.

NMIA is a non-profit association of established property and casualty insurers and general agents organized for social and educational purposes in the Commonwealth's insurance industry and the insuring public, which include community services. (PR)



Standing from left, Gol Corpuz, Jessica Sablan, Carmen Pinault, Catherine Tenorio; and Anthony Benavente, Pacific Indemnity/AIUP, NMIA member. Seated from left, Terry DL Guerrero, Equitable Insurance general manager, NMIA committee chairperson; Suzi Perez, and Lou Muna-Camacho, NMIA chairperson/National Union/New Hampshire/Calvos Branch supervisor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Nation

## At least 8 killed in Tennessee flash floods; dozens missing

**WAVERLY, Tenn.** (AP)—Catastrophic flooding in Middle Tennessee left at least eight dead and dozens missing Saturday as record-shat-

tering rainfall washed away homes and rural roads, authorities said.

Humphreys County Sheriff Chris Davis told news outlets

more than 30 people have been reported missing.

Two of the bodies recovered were toddlers who had been swept away from their father,

Davis told WSMV-TV.

The Humphreys County town of McEwen, located about 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of Nashville, was

pummeled with 17 inches (43 centimeters) of rain in less than a day, prompting water rescues, road closures, and communications disruptions. That rainfall total smashed the region's 24-hour record of 9.45 inches (24 centimeters) from 2010, according to the National Weather Service Nashville.

McEwen and the nearby city of Waverly were facing a "dire, catastrophic situation," National Weather Service meteorologist Krissy Hurley told The Tennessean. "People are trapped in their homes and have no way to get out."

Waverly couple Cindy Dunn, 48, and her husband Jimmy, 49, were rescued from their attic by a crew who used a bulldozer to reach them.

"Hell. That's what we had to go through," Cindy Dunn said.

She told The Tennessean that her husband woke her up Saturday, telling her that floodwaters had pushed her car to their backyard. Eventually the water in their house rose to at least 6 feet (1.8 meters) high, forcing them to the attic. Dunn said the rooftop wasn't an option.

"My husband is dealing with cancer. He's going through chemotherapy. And I am an amputee. So there was no going anywhere besides the attic," Dunn said.

Dunn said their home and neighboring houses "are gone."

Hickman County Chief Deputy Rob Edwards said in a text message to the newspaper that several people are missing and cellphone service has been disrupted throughout the county.



AP  
Dickson Public Works personnel check the flooding on Old Pond Lane following heavy rainfall, Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, in Dickson, Tenn.

## Winds threaten to fan destructive California wildfire

**PLACERVILLE, Calif.** (AP)—Crews were digging in and burning out fire lines amid another round of high winds Saturday contributed to the fury to a Northern California wildfire.

"We have a firefight ahead of us and the wind today is going to make it very challenging," said Keith Wade, a spokesman with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire.

The Caldor Fire in the northern Sierra Nevada already destroyed dozens of homes, and authorities on

Friday closed down a 46-mile (74-kilometer) stretch of Interstate 50, the main route between the state capital of Sacramento and Lake Tahoe on the Nevada state line.

The highway was closed after debris from the blaze fell onto the roadway and because of red flag warnings for 20- to 30-mph (32- to 48-kph) winds that by Saturday evening "combined with continued extremely dry fuels will result in critical fire weather conditions in the vicinity of the Caldor Fire," the National Weather Service said.

The winds could gust to 40

mph (65 kph) Saturday.

The road is a key checkpoint as crews struggle against the fire, which erupted earlier this week and grew to 10 times its size in a few days, fueled by winds.

"We're going to invest everything we can into holding the fire south" of the road, said Eric Schwab, an operations section chief with Cal Fire.

Firefighters made progress on the fire's western side and burned vegetation to starve it of fuel and prevent the flames from heading into the evacuated community of Pollock

Pines. On the northeast side, crews were protecting cabins in the dense forest area, fire officials said.

The Caldor Fire had now devoured about 130 square miles (310 square kilometers) as of Saturday and more than 1,500 firefighters were battling it amid heavy timber and rugged terrain.

The blaze was one of about a dozen large California wildfires that have scorched Northern California, incinerating at least 700 homes alone in and around the Sierra Nevada communities of Greenville and Grizzly Flats.

## Biden sees dip in support amid new COVID cases: AP-NORC poll

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Joe Biden is facing a summer slump, with Americans taking a notably less positive view of his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and his job approval rating ticking down.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that 54% of Americans approve of Biden's job performance, down slightly from 59% last month. While that's still a relatively solid rating for a president during his first year in office, particularly given the nation's deep political polarization, it's a worrying sign for Biden as he faces the greatest domestic and foreign

policy challenges of his presidency so far.

The biggest warning sign for the president in the survey centers on his handling of the pandemic. Last month, 66% of Americans approved of his stewardship of the public health crisis; now, that number has fallen to 54%, driven by a drop in support from Republicans and independents.

That decline in support coincides with other storm clouds gathering over Biden's presidency, most notably the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan as U.S. troops with-

draw and the Taliban cement their control of the country.

The poll, conducted August 12-16, as news of the Taliban's movement into Kabul was widely reported in the United States, shows Americans about evenly divided over Biden's handling of foreign policy (47% approve, 51% disapprove) and national security (52% approve, 46% disapprove).

Biden's domestic policy agenda also faces an uncertain future on Capitol Hill, with Democratic leaders trying to mend party divisions over a

pair of infrastructure bills and few signs of progress on voting rights or police overhaul legislation.

Still, Biden's advisers believe his presidency is likely to rise or fall on his handling of the pandemic. As recently as early summer, the White House was all but declaring victory over the virus, backing the lifting of public health restrictions and encouraging vaccinated Americans to enjoy a return to normalcy this summer. Polling showed Biden winning plaudits for his approach to the pandemic not only from nearly all Democrats, but also a healthy share of Republicans.



Biden

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Coastal evacuations urged as Hurricane Henri heads north

People evacuated popular beach communities and made last-minute runs on batteries and gasoline as Hurricane Henri churned closer to Long Island and southern New England, while officials pleaded with the millions of people in the storm's path to brace themselves for torrential rain and storm surges. Hurricane Henri was on course to collide Sunday in the late morning or afternoon with a long stretch of coastline, as hurricane warnings extended from near the old whaling port of New Bedford, Massachusetts, across the luxurious oceanfront estates of New York's Hamptons, to the summer getaway of Fire Island. Intense winds and potentially dangerous tidal surges were expected as far east as Cape Cod and as far west as the New Jersey shore, and utilities warned ensuing power outages could last a week or even more. Governors urged people to stay home during the brunt of the storm. (AP)

#### California hiker dies in Death Valley, heatstroke suspected

**DEATH VALLEY, Calif.** (AP)—A San Francisco man died while hiking in Death Valley National Park, where temperatures can be among the hottest on Earth, authorities said Saturday. Lawrence Stanback, 60, died Wednesday while hiking near Red Cathedral along the Golden Canyon Trail, according to a joint statement from the park and the Inyo County Sheriff's Office. That day temperatures

reached 108 degrees Fahrenheit (42 Celsius). Park rangers received a report of a suspected heatstroke Wednesday afternoon and set out on foot to look for Stanback. He was already dead when the rangers found him, officials said. A helicopter with the California Highway Patrol tried to fly in to recover the body but strong winds prevented it from landing. Park rangers recovered Stanback's body during the cooler evening hours, they said.

#### Rev. Jesse Jackson, wife Jacqueline hospitalized for COVID

**CHICAGO** (AP)—The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a famed civil rights leader and two-time presidential candidate, and his wife, Jacqueline, have been hospitalized after testing positive for COVID-19, according to a statement Saturday. Jesse Jackson, 79, is vaccinated against the virus and received his first dose in January during a publicized event as he urged others to receive the inoculation as soon as possible. He and his wife, 77, are being treated at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. "Doctors are currently monitoring the condition of both," according to the statement from Jesse Jackson's nonprofit, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition. "There are no further updates at this time," the statement said. "We will provide updates as they become available." A protégé of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jesse Jackson was key in guiding the modern civil rights movement on numerous issues, including voting rights.



# Asia



In this image provided by the U.S. Marines, U.S. Marines with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, provide assistance during an evacuation at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, Aug. 20, 2021.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS GUEVARA/U.S. MARINE CORPS VIA AP

## 7 Afghans killed in chaos at Afghanistan's airport

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—A panicked crush of people trying to enter Kabul's international airport killed seven Afghan civilians in the crowds, the British military said Sunday, showing the danger still posed to those trying to flee the Taliban's takeover of the country.

The deaths come as a new, perceived threat from the Islamic State group affiliate in Afghanistan has seen U.S. military planes do rapid, diving combat landings at the airport surrounded by Taliban fighters. Other aircraft have shot off flares on take-off, an effort to confuse possible heat-seeking missiles targeting the planes.

The changes come as the U.S. Embassy issued a new security warning Saturday telling citizens not to travel to the Kabul airport without individual instruction from a U.S. government representative. Officials declined to provide more specifics about the IS threat but described it as significant. They said there have been no confirmed attacks as yet by the militants, who have battled the Taliban in the past.

On Sunday, the British military acknowledged the seven deaths of civilians in the crowds in Kabul. There have been stampedes and crushing injuries in the crowds, especially as Taliban fighters

fire into the air to drive away those desperate to get on any flight out of the country.

"Conditions on the ground remain extremely challenging but we are doing everything we can to manage the situation as safely and securely as possible," the Defense Ministry said in a statement.

On Saturday, British and Western troops in full combat gear tried to control the crowds pressing in. They carried away some who were sweating and pale. With temperatures reaching 34 degree Celsius (93 degrees Fahrenheit), the soldiers sprayed water from a hose on those gathered or gave them bottled water to pour over their heads.

## China allows couples third child

**BEIJING** (AP)—China will now allow couples to legally have a third child as it seeks to hold off a demographic crisis that could threaten its hopes of increased prosperity and global influence.

The ceremonial legislature on Friday amended the Population and Family Planning Law as part of a decades-long effort by the ruling Communist Party to dictate the size of families in keep-

ing with political directives. It comes just six years after the last change.

From the 1980s, China strictly limited most couples to one child, a policy enforced with threats of fines or loss of jobs, leading to abuses including forced abortions. A preference for sons led parents to kill baby girls, leading to a massive imbalance in the sex ratio.

The rules were eased for the first time in 2015 to al-

low two children as officials acknowledged the looming consequences of the plummeting birthrate. The overwhelming fear is that China will grow old before it becomes wealthy.

China long touted its one-child policy as a success in preventing 400 million additional births in the world's most populous country, thus saving resources and helping drive economic growth.

## Sydney lockdown extended, masks required outside

**SYDNEY** (AP)—A lockdown in Australia's largest city was extended through September and tougher measures to curb the coronavirus's delta variant were imposed Friday, including a curfew and a mask mandate outdoors.

New South Wales state, which includes Sydney, reported 642 locally acquired infections in the latest 24-hour period, the fourth consecutive day of tallies exceeding 600.

Sydney has been locked down since late June after the more contagious delta variant was detected in a limousine driver who became infected while transporting a U.S. cargo aircrew from Sydney Airport.

Since then, 65 people have died from COVID-19 in New South Wales, included four overnight.

The Sydney lockdown was to end on Aug. 28, but the state government announced

it will continue until Sept. 30.

The entire state has been in lockdown since last week because the virus had spread from the city.

A curfew will apply from 9 p.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday in the worst-affected Sydney suburbs. Wearing masks will be compulsory across the state outside homes. Previously, masks weren't compulsory in all circumstances outdoors.

# World

## Hurricane Grace hits Mexico Gulf coast, dissipates; 8 dead

**VERACRUZ, Mexico** (AP)—Hurricane Grace swept onto Mexico's Gulf coast as a major Category 3 storm and moved inland Saturday, drenching coastal and inland areas in its second landfall in the country in two days. At least eight people died, authorities said.

The storm had lost power while crossing over the Yucatan Peninsula on Thursday, swirling through Mexico's main tourist strip, but it rapidly drew strength from the relatively warm Gulf of Mexico before reaching the Mexican coast again late Friday.

At least eight people, including children, died and three were missing after mudslides and flooding, said Cuitláhuac García, governor of Mexico's Veracruz state. García said 330,000 people lost power in

the storm but it was gradually being restored.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Grace quickly weakened to a tropical storm as it churned over mountainous areas in central Mexico east of Mexico City and then dissipated at midafternoon.

The storm caused rivers to overflow and landslides in places and some evacuations were needed, Veracruz authorities said.

In the coastal town of Tecolutla, Esteban Dominguez examined the wreckage of his home. He said the family home had withstood a previous hurricane, but this time the walls couldn't stand up to the battering.

"The night was shocking, very shocking, and worrying because it went so beyond

normal," Dominguez said.

Hours before nearing shore on Friday, Grace caused strong winds, high waves and rain in the Veracruz communities of Tuxpan, Poza Rica, Xalapa and Veracruz city as well as in coastal towns in the states of Tabasco and Tamaulipas, Mexico's meteorological agency said.

Fishermen pulled their boats out of the water and carried them inside harbors to prevent damage as the storm's leading edge whipped at the coast. Merchants boarded up the windows of their businesses to protect them.

The hurricane hit early Thursday near Tulum, a Yucatan resort town famed for its Mayan ruins. Some families passed harrowing hours sheltering from cracking trees and flying debris.



Pieces of roof lay on the ground in the aftermath of Hurricane Grace, in Tecolutla, Veracruz State, Mexico, Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021.

AP

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Gaza border clashes wound 24 Palestinians

**GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip** (AP)—Israeli gunfire on Saturday wounded 24 Palestinians, including a 13-year-old boy who was shot in the head, health officials said. An Israeli policeman was critically wounded by Palestinian gunfire during the clashes along Gaza's border with Israel. The violence erupted after hundreds of Palestinians took part in a demonstration Saturday organized by Gaza's Hamas rulers to draw attention to a stifling Israeli blockade of the territory. The demonstration grew violent after dozens of people approached the fortified border fence and threw rocks and explosives toward Israeli soldiers from behind a black smoke screen spewing from burning tires. The Israeli military said that hundreds of demonstrators approached one area of the fence in northern Gaza and attempted to climb over while throwing explosives at troops. It said that troops fired tear gas and live rounds toward the protesters.

#### Greece: Forest fire destroys jobs of pine resin collectors

**AGDINES, Greece** (AP)—For generations, residents in the north of the Greek island of Evia have made their living from the dense pine forests surrounding their villages. Tapping the ubiquitous Aleppo pines for their resin, the viscous, sticky substance the trees use to protect themselves from insects and disease, provided a

key source of income for hundreds of families. But now, hardly any forest is left. A devastating wildfire, one of Greece's most destructive single blazes in decades, rampaged across northern Evia for days earlier this month, swallowing woodland, homes and businesses and sending thousands fleeing. The damage won't just affect this year's crop, resin collectors and beekeepers say, but for generations to come. "It's all over. Everything has turned to ash," said Christos Livas, a 48-year-old resin collector and father of four.

#### French virus health pass in full use but protests keep going

**PARIS** (AP)—Thousands marched Saturday in cities across France to protest the COVID-19 health pass that is now required to access restaurants and cafes, cultural venues, sports arenas and long-distance travel. For a sixth straight Saturday, opponents denounced what they see as a restriction of their freedom. Many criticized the measure, claiming the French government was implicitly making vaccines obligatory. In Paris, four demonstrations were organized by different groups and over 200 protests were taking place elsewhere in French cities and towns. Last week more than 200,000 marchers turned out. The pass shows that people are fully vaccinated, have had a recent negative test or proof of a recent COVID-19 recovery. The law authorizing it also made vaccinations mandatory for French health workers by Sept. 15.



# Health & Wellness

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## MAYO CLINIC Q&A

# Swimming safety for children

By CYNTHIA WEISS  
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

**DEAR MAYO CLINIC:** A friend and I were talking about the risks of swimming and water safety for young children. I have a toddler and a 4-year-old, and I'm curious about when it's safe to swim, the risk of getting sick, and the need for goggles and earplugs.

**ANSWER:** For many people, the hot summer days are often spent swimming at the pool. But before you help your child suit up, it's important to consider practical tips to keep your child safe. Below are some common questions about children and water safety.

**Q. What's the best age to begin swimming lessons?**

**A.** Many kids learn to ride a bike and to swim on their own at the same age—often the summer before kindergarten. The American Academy of Pediatrics supports swimming lessons for most children 4 and older.

If you enroll a child younger than age 4 in a swimming program, pick

one that requires parental involvement, has qualified teachers and a fun atmosphere, and involves a limited number of underwater submersions. This will limit the amount of water your child might swallow.

**Q. Can children swim when they're sick?**

**A.** It's fine for children who have colds or other minor illnesses to swim so long as they feel well enough to do so. If your child has diarrhea, is vomiting, has a fever, or is diagnosed with COVID-19 or another infectious illness, he or she should stay out of the water.

**Q. Can babies or toddlers wear diapers in the water?**

**A.** Swim diapers and swim pants are water-repellent and fit snugly around a child's thighs and waist, but they're not waterproof. If your child has a bowel movement in the water, fecal material might escape the diaper.

A dirty diaper might contain diarrhea-causing germs, including the parasite cryptosporidium, which can contaminate pool water or other swimming areas. In otherwise



healthy people, a cryptosporidium infection causes diarrhea. The consequences can be more severe for people who have weak immune systems.

Urine in the water is less risky than feces, but it's difficult to separate the two when children wear diapers. If you allow your child to swim in a diaper, take breaks to change the diaper in the bathroom or use the toilet. Don't allow swimming if your child has diarrhea.

**Q. Is it risky for children to swallow pool water?**

**A.** Your child is bound to gulp pool water at one time or another, especially when first learning to swim. A little swallowed pool water isn't typically a cause for concern, but too much pool water can lead to illness. Encourage your child to spit out any water that gets in his or her mouth.

**Q. Can children who have casts go swimming?**

**A.** It depends on the type of cast. If your child has a plaster cast over cloth wrapping, he or she must stay out of the water. Wrapping a plaster cast with plastic bags generally isn't effective. However, if your child has a fiberglass cast that's lined with a water-repellent liner, it's usually OK to swim—as long as you have the health care provider's OK. After

swimming, it's important to thoroughly rinse the inside of the cast with clean water.

**Q. Can children swim if they have ear tubes?**

**A.** If your child has ear tubes, it's best to ask his or her health care provider about ear protection during swimming. Some health care providers recommend that children who have ear tubes wear earplugs while swimming to prevent bacteria from entering the middle ear. However, routine use of earplugs might only be needed when children dive or swim in untreated water, such as lakes and rivers.

**Q. What's the best way to prevent swimmer's ear?**

**A.** Swimmer's ear—also known as otitis externa—is an infection of the outer ear canal that occurs if water remains in the ear after swimming.

To prevent swimmer's ear:

- Keep ears dry. Encourage your child to wear earplugs while swimming. After swimming, dry your child's ears by wiping the outer ears gently with a soft towel or use a hair dryer on the lowest setting, holding it at least a foot away from the ear.

- Use a preventive treatment. As long as your child doesn't have punctured eardrums, using over-the-counter preventive solutions or making

homemade eardrops before and after swimming can reduce risk for swimmer's ear.

- Avoid putting foreign objects in your child's ear. Cotton swabs can pack material deeper into the ear canal, irritate the thin skin inside the ear or break the skin.

**Q. How do I prevent red eyes? Are goggles a must?**

**A.** Exposure to chlorine might leave your child with red eyes. To prevent red or puffy eyes, encourage your child to wear goggles while swimming and avoid opening his or her eyes underwater. To ease discomfort and reduce redness after swimming, rinse your child's eyes with a sterile eyewash or an artificial tears solution.

**Q. Is it OK to swim after eating?**

**A.** While it may not be the most comfortable thing to go for a swim with a full belly, this is not a dangerous activity.

With young children, the biggest concern with swimming and safety is staying alert. Make sure you are always nearby and be prepared to act in case of an emergency.

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## COVID-19 travel trips for people with weakened immune systems

Experts say getting fully vaccinated is the most important step people can take to lower their risk of transmitting or getting infected with COVID-19. Even then, Dr. Stacey Rizza, a Mayo Clinic infectious diseases specialist, suggests travelers wear a mask, avoid congregated areas when possible and maintain good hand hygiene. These measures are especially important for travelers who are immunocompromised and may not have had a normal response to being vaccinated for COVID-19.

"If somebody is immunocompromised and they are vaccinated but their physician feels that their immunocompromised state is such that

they may not have responded fully to the vaccine, it makes sense for those people to still wear masks in public and try to avoid congregated settings, and just be a little more thoughtful about where they're going," says Dr. Rizza.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests people delay any nonessential travel until they can be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Dr. Rizza says regardless of one's vaccination status, people should not delay travel for specialty care.

"If you are vaccinated, then obviously that decreases the risk of any of the travel, but even if you're unvaccinated and you wear a mask, the

hospitals are prepared. The hospitals are safe. It is important that people continue to maintain their health care, particularly if they have a need for specialty care," says Dr. Rizza. (Mayo Clinic News Network)

*Information in this post was accurate at the time of its posting. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientific understanding, along with guidelines and recommendations, may have changed since the original publication date. For more information and all your COVID-19 coverage, go to the Mayo Clinic News Network and [mayoclinic.org](http://mayoclinic.org). Learn more about tracking COVID-19 and COVID-19 trends.*



Travelers pass through the concourse at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on the eve of Memorial Day long weekend May 28, 2021 in Arlington, Virginia. ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES/TNS



# Life & Style

## Mike Richards out as 'Jeopardy!' host after past scrutinized

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Producer Mike Richards stepped down from his brief tenure as host of "Jeopardy!" after a report about past misogynistic comments surfaced this week and following a drumbeat of criticism about his selection and how it was made.

Richards was chosen last week as the successor to Alex Trebek, a decision that was seen as divisive from the beginning after the show had embarked on a search that included actors, sports figures, journalists and celebrities.

Earlier this week, The Ringer website revealed demeaning comments about women, the homeless and others that Richards had made on a 2013-14 podcast, "The Randumb Show." The clips were removed online after the report was posted.

"Over the last several days it

has become clear that moving forward as host would be too much of a distraction for our fans and not the right move for the show," Richards said in a note to the "Jeopardy!" staff on Friday.



Richards

Richards said a search for a new host will begin, with guest hosts returning to continue production for the new season.

But viewers will get to see the short-lived emcee in action. The episodes that Richards taped Thursday will air when the show returns for its 38th season starting Sept. 13; a do-over with a substitute host would be a slap at the contestants and further undermine the show.

Richards' note indicated that he will remain the show's executive producer—an awkward situation for whoever replaces him.

Sony Pictures Television, the studio that makes "Jeopardy!" and which released Richards' memo, said it was surprised to learn of his podcasts and offensive language and spoke with him "about our concerns and our expectations moving forward."

"It our hope that as EP he will continue to do so with professionalism and respect," Sony said in a statement Friday.

The podcast content would have dogged anyone taking over a high-profile Hollywood position but was especially difficult for Richards, said Robert Thompson, a Syracuse University professor.

They were "the opposite of what we thought of in Alex Trebek. 'Jeopardy!' and Trebek were kind of this place you escaped from the scandal and

the tweets and all the other stuff that was going on in the world," Thompson said Friday.

"Jeopardy!" champion James Holzhauer, who holds the record for single-game winnings and is No. 3 for all-time winnings, offered a sarcastic reaction to Richards' exit.

"I was really looking forward to the season premiere where after an exhaustive 61-clue search

for the next Jeopardy champion, the show looks past the three obvious candidates and declares Mike Richards the winner," Holzhauer tweeted.

When Richards was tapped to host the popular game show last week, Sony also announced that actor Mayim Bialik would emcee "Jeopardy!" prime-time and spinoff series, including a new college championship.

## Ex-tour manager testifies against R. Kelly about Aaliyah

NEW YORK (AP)—A former tour manager for R. Kelly reluctantly testified Friday that he paid a \$500 bribe to a government worker to get the singer Aaliyah a fake identification card so Kelly could secretly marry her when she was 15 years old.

Demetrius Smith told a

jury at Kelly's sex-trafficking trial that after he went into a Chicago-area welfare office in 1994, he brazenly approached an employee who was taking ID photos.

"Hey, want to make some money?" he said he asked the employee before handing over the cash. He was confident

the bribe would work because "everybody needs some money," he added.

The welfare card was one of two fake IDs used to clear the way for the R&B legend to marry Aaliyah after he began a sexual relationship with her and believed she had become pregnant. A marriage license

that was put into evidence falsely listed her age as 18; Kelly was 27 at the time.

Prosecutors say Kelly wanted to use the marriage, which was later annulled, to shield himself from criminal charges related to having sex with a minor and to prevent her from testifying against him.

## Hong Kong quarantine exemption for Nicole Kidman draws flak

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's granting of a quarantine exemption to Hollywood star Nicole Kidman is drawing criticism from lawmakers as the city tightens entry restrictions for international travelers to control the coronavirus.

Kidman, who reportedly flew to Hong Kong last week from coronavirus-hit Sydney, was exempted from a week-

long quarantine and was spotted in the city this week filming a new Amazon Prime Video series titled "Expats," according to local media reports.

The government said in a statement Thursday that it had granted the exemption "for the purpose of performing designated professional work."

It said the work was "conducive to maintaining the nec-

essary operation and development of Hong Kong's economy."

Some Hong Kong lawmakers criticized the decision.

"Nicole Kidman's exemption case is not just about politics, it involves the health security issue and is a matter of unfairness," said lawmaker



Kidman

Priscilla Leung.

Leung said she herself was not exempted from quarantine when a family member was infected with the coronavirus.

Kidman's exemption sets a precedent for other celebrities in the future, said lawmaker Michael Tien.

## Britney Spears under investigation over battery of staff

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Britney Spears is under investigation over misdemeanor battery after a staff member at her home alleged the singer struck her, authorities said Thursday.

Deputies responded to Spears' home in Southern California after the staff member reported the Monday night dispute, the Ventura County

Sheriff's Office said.

No one was injured.

Reports taken by deputies will be handed over to prosecutors for consideration, the sheriff's office said, giving no further details.

Spears' attorney Matthew Rosengart said in an email that the investigation is "overblown sensational tab-



Spears

loid fodder—nothing more than a manufactured 'he said she said' regarding a cellphone, with no striking and obviously no injury whatsoever."

"Anyone can make an accusation but this should have been closed immediately," Rosengart said. Spears has a home in Thou-

sand Oaks, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) west of downtown Los Angeles.

Spears, 39, hired Rosengart last month as she seeks to regain greater control of her life 13 years into a court conservatorship that has power over her money and affairs.

In court hearings, Spears called the conservatorship "abusive."

## Lonely divorcee discouraged by a return to 'normalcy'

**DEAR ABBY:** After my divorce 15 years ago, I moved 800 miles away to be near my only family—my older sister—at her request. We are close and talk on the phone every day, but do nothing together because she's always busy and active with her partner of 50 years and their circle of friends.

I have made few friends (just a couple from work and neighborhood acquaintances), nor have I found a romantic connection despite trying online dating, self-help books and volunteering. I even tried going on vacation alone a few years ago, which was misery. I've been through counseling three times. All three professionals have concluded that this is simply my life.

During the COVID quarantine, I actually felt normal for the first time in 15 years because everyone else was spending all their time at home alone, too. While I'm relieved and thankful for the vaccines for bringing us closer to an end to the pandemic, I'm also depressed. I am dreading a return to "normal" because people will resume living and I will sit here and watch. How do I accept that this is how my life will be?

SIDELINED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**DEAR SIDELINED:** My late mother once told me that people can be as happy as they choose to be. You appear to

be someone who has too much time on her hands. You are not a deprived urchin with her nose pressed against a bakery window. You are a capable adult who, now that so many people have been vaccinated, can get out of your dwelling and involve yourself in activities that INTEREST you.

The time you're wasting "watching" others live their lives is time you could be spending getting out into the community and perhaps volunteering again, taking a class or searching for a part-time job. If you do, you may meet others with similar interests and—while you may or may not find the romance you crave—you could possibly make some new friends.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I took care of all three of my grandbabies from birth to when my oldest turned 9. Then I found out she was going home and telling her parents "everything" that happened while they were with me (nothing bad at all). Instead of talking to me about it, their mom is now keeping them from me.

I have decided to quit trying to see them, since I feel like their mom "all of a sudden" doesn't trust me or know me after all these years. I feel the same way about my son. I think he should see what's going on and do something about it, but I don't want to cause trouble between them. Am I wrong?

CUT OFF IN NEW MEXICO

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR CUT OFF:** There is nothing wrong with children telling their parents what happened during a visit with the grandparents. And if the parent(s) feel any concern or discomfort, it would make sense for it to be discussed among the adults. Something important is missing from your letter. Do you KNOW what your granddaughter told her mother? I see nothing wrong with approaching your son about setting up a "family conference" to discuss this. Frankly, it is overdue.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



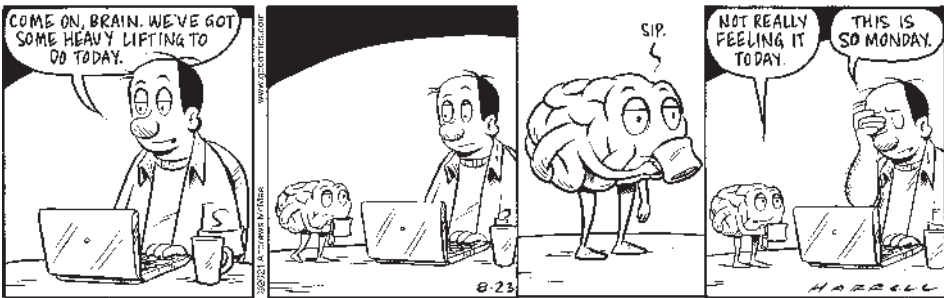
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 "Mayday!" singer  
4 Rice Adams  
9 Bud cry  
12 Author Fleming  
13 Unanimously  
14 Flamenco cheer  
15 Tennis tactics  
17 Wall St. deal  
18 Cash dispenser  
19 Certain Honshu resident  
21 Throat-soothing beverage  
24 Saint Petersburg's river  
25 Mentalist Geller  
26 Conducted  
28 Auto style  
31 Whale groups  
33 Felon's flight  
35 Composer Porter

**36 "Get Here"**  
38 Homer's  
40 — Maria (coffee liqueur)  
41 Brief moments  
43 Pough-keepsie college  
45 Ottoman bigwig  
47 Rock's Brian  
48 Olympic skater  
49 Areas with poor reception  
54 Hanoi holiday

**55 Hopping**  
56 Brazilian city  
57 Curved letter  
58 Playwright Fugard  
59 Founda- tion  
DOWN  
1 "Ice Age" sloth  
2 Rowing need  
3 — -Cat  
4 Summery shade  
5 "Moby-Dick" narrator  
6 Privy  
7 Composer Bruckner  
8 Owns (up)  
9 Speckled patterns  
10 Goya's duchess  
11 Boxer Spinks  
16 Bit of butter  
20 With (Fr.)  
21 Novelist Victor  
22 Verbal  
23 Schedule openings  
27 Pop  
29 Inter —  
30 Close  
32 Editor's "keep it"  
34 Resettled in  
37 National park in Maine  
39 Gretel's brother  
42 Hagar's dog  
44 Soak (up)  
45 Locus  
46 Salt Lake City team  
50 Foot rub response  
51 Globe  
52 Cravat  
53 Turf

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

S	A	C	A	M	P	M	A	M	E	T
I	U	R	B	A	R	I	R	A	T	E
A	H	E	B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S
R	A	P	A	T	S	E	A			
P	E	E	P	I	S	H	A	N	A	I
			O	W	N	O	I	E	R	S
G	E	S	S	O			S	T	A	K
I	T	R	I	E	D	E	M	O		
S	E	A	T	O	S	S	S	A	G	
				C	O	U	N	C	E	U
F	A	S	T	B	R	E	A	K	X	V
A	G	A	V	E	A	P	E	E	E	
D	E	L	A	Y	D	E	S		S	T

Last Friday's Answer 08/23

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jeremy Lin, 33; Scott Caan, 45; Shelley Long, 72; Barbara Eden, 90.

**Happy Birthday:** Follow your heart. Be open about how you feel, express your intentions, and elaborate on how you want to live and what you want to accomplish this year. Change is heading your way, and you want to be ready to enjoy what life has to offer. Stop procrastinating; do whatever it takes to turn your dream into a reality. Your numbers are 8, 15, 22, 27, 31, 34, 47.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't let uncertainty stop you from reaching your goal. Discuss possibilities before you proceed, and you will lessen your chance of failure. Someone will withhold information if you do not make a point to ask the right questions. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Draw information from people you trust to give you the lowdown. Ask questions, and get involved in something that concerns you. Branch out socially, and you'll see what you are up against and how you can make a difference. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Consider the consequence before you take sides or get involved in something that can affect your position or ruin your reputation. A steady pace toward your goal will help you avoid getting drawn into someone's dilemma. Don't believe everything you hear. \*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Make a change that helps you look at your life from a different perspective. Discuss emotional issues and make logical suggestions.

Keep the peace by not overreacting to what a friend, relative or lover suggests. Persuasive charm is in your best interest. \*\*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Take time to reflect. Touch base with someone you haven't talked to in a while, and you will close the door on something that has been confusing or holding up your progress. Lifting a barricade will lead to new beginnings. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Put your energy where it counts and embrace change. Learn from your mistakes, and refuse to miss out on something that sparks your imagination and inspires you to try something new. Share your thoughts and feelings, and pursue personal happiness. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Concentrate on personal gain, physical strength and endurance, and spending time with someone who brings out the best in you. Don't limit what you can do. Look for a way to overcome any obstacle that gets in your way. Romance is encouraged. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Status, reputation and doing what you do best are favored. Step out on a limb and be original. Not everyone will concede to your way of thinking, but those who do will help you reach your target. Follow your intuition. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Slow down, look over every detail and verify any information you receive. Time is on your side, and taking precautions will save you from stress and unnecessary expenses. In-

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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dulge in something that will benefit your health and well-being. \*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Put a financial plan together that encourages personal gain. An opportunity to expand one of your interests will lead to a new opportunity. Take the road less traveled, and you'll offset a competitive challenge. A lifestyle change will encourage better health and less stress. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** A disciplined approach to finances, health and contractual matters will help you achieve your goal. Don't give anyone the right to speak on your behalf or make decisions for you. A partnership based on equality will encourage supportive action, not control. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You'll make headway if you discuss personal matters with someone close to you. A partnership looks promising and can help you make positive changes to the way you earn and handle your cash. Look over your options, and do what's best for you. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are quick-witted, sensitive and original. You are proactive and curious.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3				5			7	6
8			1	9	6			
		5				8		
	8		4		7		6	
4	9			6			8	5
	3		9		5		4	
		3				9		
			5	4	3			7
6	1			2				8

Difficulty Level ★

8/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	9	8	6	1	7	4	2	5
7	4	2	3	5	8	1	9	6
5	6	1	4	9	2	8	7	3
4	3	5	2	8	9	6	1	7
1	7	6	5	4	3	2	8	9
8	2	9	7	6	1	5	3	4
6	8	3	9	2	4	7	5	1
2	5	7	1	3	6	9	4	8
9	1	4	8	7	5	3	6	2

Difficulty Level: \*\*\*\*\*

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RELAXING IN A SAT'NA

Solution: 8 letters

E R U T A R E P M E T O W E L  
L C E L A H X E M A E T S S A  
C I N L S P O R E S H T S M T  
S R G A E H B W U G O E L E N  
U C W A M A S R I V N A T N E  
M U P D M R S L E T C I S U M  
E L S R R E O E I B A M S H M E  
L A A E I Y N F B E T C M M D  
A T B E I V D T R R N H R I I  
H I U F H R A O E E A E E S T  
N O T A E E O T B R P I I T A  
I N T S H M C L E M Y G N Y T  
K P O O L H D T A S O O T H E  
S R H I E C A P S C L E A N T  
T Y D O O W H E A R T N I O J

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8/23

Bench, Body, Brain, Breathe, Calm, Calories, Circulation, Clean, Dry, Exhale, Fitness, Gym, Heal, Heart, Heat, Hot Tub, Immune, Inhale, Joint, Ligament, Light, Meditate, Mental, Misty, Muscle, Music, Pamper, Performance, Pool, Pores, Private, Release, Resort, Room, Safe, Skin, Soothe, Space, Steam, Stove, Stretch, Sweat, Temperature, Time, Towel, Wash, Water, Wood

Last Friday's Answer: Laptop

To purchase WONDERWORD books.

visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Scherzer helps Dodgers beat Mets 4-3 for 9th straight win



**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Trea Turner, Albert Pujols and Chris Taylor

homered, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the slumping New York Mets 4-3 Saturday.

The surging Dodgers have won nine consecutive games, matching a season-best win streak. Six of those wins have come against the Mets, who have dropped eight of nine overall.

Kenley Jansen pitched a scoreless ninth for his 27th save. He hit Kevin Pillar to lead off the inning, then got Brandon Nimmo to ground out and struck out Jeff McNeil and Pete Alonso.

Dodgers right-hander Max Scherzer (11-4) struck out eight while pitching five innings of one-run ball.

Alonso hit a two-run shot for New York, and Nimmo connected for a solo homer. Rich Hill (6-5) allowed three solo homers over five innings.



AP  
Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Max Scherzer throws to a New York Mets batter during the first inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021.

mers (1-3) in the third. Amed Rosario homered to lead off the seventh.

## Blue Jays 3, Tigers 0

In Toronto, Hyun Jin Ryu cruised through seven innings for Toronto, and Randal Grichuk and Marcus Semien homered.

Detroit slugger Miguel Cabrera went 0 for 3 with a walk to remain at 499 career home runs.

Ryu (12-6) allowed five hits in his first win since Aug. 3. Jordan Romano worked the ninth for his 11th save in 12 chances.

Cabrera struck out swinging for the final out as the Tigers lost for the fifth time in six games.

Detroit right-hander Wily Peralta (3-3) permitted two runs and six hits in six innings.

## Pirates 5, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Yoshi Tsutsugo and Kevin Newman homered for Pittsburgh, and Ke'Bryan Hayes added a two-run single.

Leadoff hitter Ben Gamel added three hits and a walk, and Jacob Stallings had two hits in the Pirates' 12-hit attack.

Chasen Shreve (2-1) pitched to one batter in the sixth, striking out Matt Carpenter. David Bednar gave up a leadoff single in the ninth, but got the next three batters to earn his first save.

Genesis Cabrera (2-4) allowed three runs in the seventh to take the loss.

## Rockies 5, Diamondbacks 2

In Denver, Elías Díaz hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning after Garrett Hampson hit a game-tying two-run pinch-hit homer in the bottom of the eighth, lifting Colorado past Arizona.

Daulton Varsho homered and Ketel Marte had three hits and an RBI for the Diamondbacks, who lost their seventh in a row to the Rockies at Coors Field.

The Rockies registered their 12th win this season in their final at-bat while extending their overall winning streak to five and home winning streak to nine.

Daniel Bard (7-5) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win. J.B. Wendelken (2-2) took the loss.

## Padres 4, Phillies 3, 10 innings

In San Diego, Adam Frazier scored the winning run on a wild pitch by Connor Brogdon in the 10th inning and San Diego overcame a strong outing by Aaron Nola and beat Philadelphia to end a four-game skid.

Jake Cronenworth hit a two-run homer to center field with two-out in the ninth inning off Nola to tie the game at 3-all.

Mark Melancon (3-2) earned the win by pitching scoreless ninth and 10th innings. Brogdon (5-3) took the loss.

Nola, who didn't figure in the decision, pitched a perfect game through six innings and lasted 8 2/3 innings. He allowed three runs, two earned, and two hits with 11 strikeouts.

The win keeps the Padres tied with the Cincinnati Reds in the race for the second NL wild-card spot.

## Giants 6, Athletics 5

In Oakland, Calif., Pinch-hitter LaMonte Wade Jr. connected for a two-run homer in the ninth inning, helping San Francisco rally for the win.

Brandon Belt drew a one-out walk against Lou Trivino (5-5) and was replaced by Mike Yastrzemski. Wade followed with his 16th homer, a towering drive to right on a 1-1 pitch.

Kris Bryant, Brandon Belt and Darin Ruf also homered for San Francisco, which trailed 5-2 after six innings. The Giants (79-44) stayed 1 1/2 games ahead of the charging Dodgers for the top spot in the NL West.

Tyler Rogers (4-1) got the win. Jake McGee pitched the ninth for his 27th save.

Starling Marte doubled twice for Oakland, continuing his surge since the All-Star break. Josh Harrison added an RBI double.

## Braves 5, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Austin Riley put Atlanta ahead for good with a homer in the fifth inning, and the Braves stretched their winning streak to eight games.

The Braves overcame four solo home runs by Baltimore, including two by Anthony Santander. The Orioles' 17-game skid is their second-longest since the team came to Baltimore in 1954, behind the 0-21 start to the 1988 season.

Joc Pederson also homered for the Braves, who have won 15 of 17 to take over first place in the NL East. Atlanta has peeled off 12 straight road wins, a single-season franchise record and the longest run in the majors since Cleveland won 14 in a row in 2017.

Atlanta's Drew Smyly (9-3) struck out eight over five innings. Will Smith worked the ninth, earning his 27th save despite allowing Santander's second homer of the game.

Matt Harvey (6-13) got the loss.

## Rangers 10, Red Sox 1

In Boston, former Boston utilityman Brock Holt hit two RBI singles, and the Rangers used a surprisingly strong start by Jordan Lyles to beat the sloppy Red Sox.

The victory snapped a four-game

losing streak for the Rangers, who entered with the majors' few wins since the All-Star break at 7-25. Andy Ibáñez and Adolis Garcia each had two of Texas' season-high seven doubles.

Lyles (6-10) pitched seven innings of one-run ball in his 50th career win. He came in 0-5 with a 7.46 ERA in six starts since the All-Star break.

Kiké Hernández had an RBI single for the Red Sox, who committed a season-high five errors, had two wild pitches and two baserunners cut down. Eduardo Rodríguez (9-7) got the loss.

## Rays 8, White Sox 4

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Brandon Lowe, Manuel Margot and Joey Wendle each had two hits and two RBIs for the Rays.

Wander Franco also had two hits and scored twice as Tampa Bay won for the fifth time in six games. Luis Patiño (3-3) pitched six innings of two-run ball, and Collin McHugh got five outs for his first career save.

The AL East-leading Rays finished with 11 hits while scoring at least eight runs for the 11th time in 15 games.

José Abreu had two hits for Chicago, which rallied for a 7-5 victory in the opener of the weekend series between AL powers. Dallas Keuchel (8-7) was charged with six runs in five innings.

## Yankees 7, Twins 1

In New York, Gerrit Cole pitched six scoreless innings, leading the Yankees to their season-high ninth straight win.

Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run double during New York's five-run fifth, helping the Yankees move to 21-5 since dropping three of four at Boston in late July. Cole (12-6) allowed five hits, struck out six and walked one.

Bronx-raised Yankees infielder Andrew Velazquez hit his first career homer in the eighth inning, bringing his family in the stands to tears. The 27-year-old journeyman has been staying with his parents since being promoted from Triple-A on July 9.

Jorge Polanco homered for the

Twins, who are 2-17 in their last 19 games at Yankee Stadium. Kenta Maeda (6-5) allowed five runs in 4 1/3 innings before exiting with right forearm tightness.

## Royals 4, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Kris Bubic carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning, leading Kansas City to the victory.

Whit Merrifield had three hits and stole home as part of a double steal, helping Kansas City to its fifth win in six games. Nicky Lopez also had three hits and drove in a run.

Bubic (4-6) was working on a no-hitter when the game was delayed in the middle of the seventh because of an approaching storm.

The heavy rain never materialized, and Bubic returned after a 34-minute delay. Frank Schwindel then led off with his second walk and Patrick Wisdom followed with his 20th homer.

Bubic, who turned 24 on Thursday, struck out nine in 6 1/3 innings. Scott Barlow got three outs for his eighth save, finishing a one-hitter.

Chicago dropped its 12th straight home game, matching the franchise record. Rookie right-hander Keegan Thompson (3-3) allowed two runs in four innings in his second big league start.

## Brewers 9, Nationals 6

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich homered twice and drove in six runs, powering Milwaukee to the win.

Yelich hit a solo homer in the first, an RBI single in the fifth and a grand slam in the eighth. Devin Williams (7-1) worked the eighth for the win, and Josh Hader got three outs for his 25th save.

Yelich's slam gave the Brewers a 9-4 lead. Washington scored two in the ninth, but left the bases loaded.

Lane Thomas had two hits for Washington and scored three times. Yadiel Hernandez homered, and Javy Guerra (0-1) was charged with the loss.

## Reds 7, Marlins 4

In Cincinnati, Nick Castellanos hit a two-run homer and drove in four

runs, and Cincinnati won for the fifth time in seven games.

Tyler Naquin hit three doubles and scored three times for the Reds, who began the day in a tie with San Diego for the second NL wild card. Luis Cessa (4-2) earned the win, and Michael Lorenzen got five outs for his second save.

Miami dropped its sixth straight game. Jorge Alfaro had two hits and drove in a run, and Zach Thompson pitched five innings of three-hit ball. Anthony Bender (2-2) got the loss.

## Astros 15, Mariners 1

In Houston, rookie Taylor Jones had a career-high four RBIs and Yordan Alvarez hit a three-run homer, powering Houston to the runaway victory.

Jose Altuve added a season-best four hits to help the Astros to their third straight win after losing four in a row. The AL West-leading Astros improved to 5-1 against the Mariners at home this season.

Houston right-hander Jake Odorizzi (6-6) struck out eight in 5 2/3 innings.

Mitch Haniger hit his 28th homer for Seattle. Rookie Logan Gilbert (5-5) was tagged for nine runs in 4 2/3 innings.

## Indians 5, Angels 1

In Cleveland, Triston McKenzie struck out Shohei Ohtani three times while pitching two-hit ball into the eighth inning, sending Cleveland to the win.

Ohtani leads the majors with 40 home runs, but struck out swinging in the first, third and sixth.

McKenzie struck out eight and was pulled after walking José Iglesias to begin the eighth — the only free pass he allowed. The right-hander was charged with a run when Iglesias scored on Jo Adell's groundout with Bryan Shaw pitching.

The 24-year-old McKenzie (3-5) was coming off a dominant performance at Detroit, carrying a perfect game into the eighth inning of an 11-0 victory.

José Ramírez homered for Cleveland for the third straight game, hitting a three-run drive off Reid Det-



# NBA schedule for 75th anniversary season has nods to history

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



The full schedule for the NBA's 75th anniversary season was released Friday, highlighted in part by what will be a yearlong tribute to some of the key moments in league history.

Opening night is Oct. 19. It's back to a normal schedule for the NBA, with all teams playing 82 games after a 72-game slate last season because the calendar was compressed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Toronto Raptors will play at home after relocating to Tampa, Florida, last season because of Canadian border restrictions.

The NBA has prioritized player rest over the past several seasons, a trend that continues this year. Teams on average will travel about 43,000 miles (69,000 kilometers), which would be a record low for a 30-team, 82-game season. Single-game road trips are down to about seven per team, a considerable drop from about 10 per team two seasons ago.

Also back from last season: There will be instances of teams playing two games on one trip to a city against the same opponent, something many teams enjoyed. There also are multiple instances of Eastern Conference teams flying to Los Angeles and playing both the Lakers and the Clippers on that leg of a trip.

And for the fourth consecutive normal season, excluding last year's slate, no team is being asked to play four games in the span of five days.

A breakdown of some of the season highlights:

## THE ANNIVERSARY

New York will play host to Toronto on Nov. 1, exactly 75 years to the day after the Knicks visited the then-Toronto Huskies in the first game of the Basketball Association of America's inaugural season. The BAA was rebranded as



In this June 18, 2021, file photo, Los Angeles Clippers fans cheer in the final moments of the Clippers' 131-119 win over the Utah Jazz in Game 6 of the second-round of the Western Conference the NBA basketball playoffs.

the NBA three years later.

## CELEBRATING LONGEVITY

New York, Boston and Golden State (which began as the Philadelphia Warriors) are the only three franchises that have been part of all 75 NBA seasons, and they'll all face off in mid-December in nationally televised games. Golden State is at New York on Dec. 14, then the Warriors play at Boston on Dec. 17, and the Knicks visit the Celtics on Dec. 18.

## WELCOME HOME

The Raptors haven't played in Toronto since Feb. 28, 2020. They'll be back on Oct. 20 against Washington. The NBA gave the Raptors five home contests in their first six games of this season, so there will be plenty of time for Toronto fans to see their team again finally.

## CHRISTMAS

The NBA revealed the Dec. 25 games earlier this week: Atlanta at New York, Boston at Milwaukee, Golden State at Phoenix, Brooklyn at the Los Angeles Lakers and Dallas at Utah.

## MLK DAY

The NBA will celebrate Mar-

tin Luther King Jr. Day with an all-day, 12-game slate on Jan. 17 that includes the traditional home games for Memphis and Atlanta: New Orleans at Boston, Charlotte at New York, Philadelphia at Washington, Brooklyn at Cleveland, Chicago at Memphis, Indiana at the Los Angeles Clippers, Milwaukee at Atlanta, Portland at Orlando, Toronto at Miami, Oklahoma City at Dallas, Phoenix at San Antonio and Utah at the Los Angeles Lakers.

## SUPER SUNDAY

If the Falcons, Patriots, Vikings or Colts make the Super Bowl, fans in those cities may find themselves watching an NBA game instead of an NFL pregame show. The only two NBA games on Feb. 13 this season are Atlanta at Boston and Minnesota at Indiana.

## FINALS REMATCHES

As expected, the 2021 NBA Finals rematches between the Milwaukee Bucks and Phoenix Suns will be nationally televised. Milwaukee goes to Phoenix on Feb. 10; the Suns visit the Bucks on March 6.

## WILT NIGHT

The Knicks will be part of another milestone game on

March 2: They'll visit the Philadelphia 76ers exactly 60 years after Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points to lead the Philadelphia Warriors past the Knicks in a game played at Hershey, Pennsylvania.

## NO GAMES

The NBA has no games scheduled for Nov. 25 (Thanksgiving), Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) and April 4 (the date of the NCAA men's basketball Division I national championship game). The last games before the All-Star break are Feb. 17, All-Star weekend is Feb. 18-20 and then no games are played again until Feb. 24.

## LOWRY RETURNS

Kyle Lowry returns to Toronto for the first time as a member of the Miami Heat on Feb. 3. Lowry spent nine seasons with the Raptors, helping them win the 2019 NBA title. He joined the Heat in a sign-and-trade earlier this month. The first time Lowry will oppose the Raptors is Jan. 17 in Miami.

## RODEO TRIP

The San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo returns Feb. 10-27—and that means the Spurs are packing their bags for

a long time. They'll go 27 days between home games, from Feb. 4 through March 3, playing eight road games in a span that also covers the All-Star break. (The All-Star Game is Feb. 20 in Cleveland.) San Antonio also has an unusual stretch earlier in the season: a seven-game road trip from Dec. 31 through Jan. 10, followed by a seven-game homestand from Jan. 12 through Jan. 23.

## GRAMMY TRIP

The Lakers and Clipper must vacate Staples Center for the last couple of weeks of January in preparation for the Grammy Awards on Jan. 31. The Lakers play six consecutive road games in that span, the Clippers eight in a row — and when the Clippers finally do get back home, they'll play host to the Lakers.

## NBA BRIEFS

### Miami Heat: All employees must be vaccinated against COVID

MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Heat announced Friday that all employees must be in the process of becoming fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Sept. 1.

Exemptions will be available for those awaiting a second dose of a two-shot vaccine or those with "a qualifying medical condition or a sincerely held religious belief," the team said. Employees who have not met vaccination requirements by that date will not be allowed at work, and if they remain noncompliant eventually will be considered to have resigned.

The Heat said in a statement that the "stability and success of the live events industry hinges on prioritizing safety — of our players, our employees, our partners, our fans, our vendors and the media. One of the ways we can substantially minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission is to ensure our entire staff is vaccinated."

## LONGESTS

The Clippers' eight-game trip to close January is the longest uninterrupted road swing this season. Washington and Golden State have the longest homestands, an eight-game stretch for each (Jan. 11-25 for Washington, Oct. 28-Nov. 12 for Golden State).

## GLOBAL GAME

The NBA said 46 weekend games will air in prime time in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

## LAST DAY

All 30 teams are scheduled to play April 10, the final day of the regular season. The play-in tournament begins two days later and continues through April 15. The playoffs begin April 16, and the 2022 NBA Finals are scheduled to start June 2.

The Heat have not yet revealed their plans for welcoming fans to home games this season.

### Ray Allen takes basketball coaching job at Miami prep school

MIAMI (AP)—Ray Allen has taken a job as director of boys and girls basketball at Miami's Gulliver Prep, and will also serve as the school's boys varsity basketball coach.

Gulliver announced the hiring of the Hall of Fame player, two-time NBA champion and 10-time All-Star on Friday. Allen has been involved with Gulliver in the past as an assistant coach for a middle school program and is a parent at the school.

Allen was part of NBA championship-winning teams in Boston in 2008 and in Miami in 2013. He is still the NBA's career leader in 3-pointers made with 2,973 — 141 more than Golden State's Stephen Curry.

Gulliver has about 2,200 students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

# Bucks' Antetokounmpo joins Brewers' ownership group

MILWAUKEE (AP)—One month after leading the Milwaukee Bucks to their first NBA title in half a century, Giannis Antetokounmpo is teaming up with the city's other major pro sports franchise by joining the Milwaukee Brewers' ownership group.

"Man, this is unbelievable," Antetokounmpo said Friday at a news conference. "This is a dream come true for a kid from Sepolia, Athens, Greece, born from immigrant parents. I could have never imagined I would be in this position."

Antetokounmpo modeled a Brewers jersey with No. 34, the same number he wears on the basketball court. Brewers principal owner Mark Attanasio joked that he wondered whether president of baseball operations David Stearns might want to try out the 6-foot-11 forward at first base.

Attanasio and Antetokounmpo said they finalized this agreement in May. Antetokounmpo said he and the team kept it quiet at the time because they didn't want to distract the Bucks' playoff run

and the early part of the Brewers' season.

Attanasio said Antetokounmpo is the first new individual investor who has been added to the Brewers ownership group since Attanasio purchased controlling interest of the franchise in 2005.

Antetokounmpo said he started thinking about getting involved in ownership of a pro sports franchise last year while he was in the NBA playoff bubble at Walt Disney World. Antetokounmpo, who is from Greece, said his

team first discussed the possibility of buying a European soccer club.

But the two-time NBA MVP said he wanted to team up with the Brewers to show his support to the city of Milwaukee.

"Milwaukee made me who I am today," said Antetokounmpo, who signed a supermax contract extension with the Bucks in December. "It made me a better person. This is basically my home. I've become a father here. I've become a

leader here. I've become a champion here, and I want to be involved. I want to be involved in the community as much as possible. I know Milwaukee invested a lot in me, and I want to invest a lot of me back into the city of Milwaukee."

Antetokounmpo knows the city very well. But admitted that he still has plenty to learn about the area of baseball.

"Obviously growing up in Europe, there's not a lot of baseball over there," he said. "I can tell you when I was introduced to baseball. I was 18.

It was the first day I came to Milwaukee. I came to a game. But I know Christian Yelich. I know he's a great player."

The Brewers sure know Antetokounmpo, though.

Attanasio said about 20 Brewers players were watching from a Fiserv Forum suite when Antetokounmpo scored 50 points in Game 6 of the NBA Finals to clinch the Bucks' first championship since 1971.

"We're trying to have some of that good karma that Giannis and his teammates created to rub off on us," Attanasio said.



# Manny Pacquiao loses to Yordenis Ugás by unanimous decision



Yordenis Ugás, left, of Cuba, hits Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, in a welterweight championship boxing match Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, in Las Vegas. AP

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—Although Manny Pacquiao hasn't decided what his future holds, the eight-division world champion realizes his 26-year professional boxing career might have ended Saturday night with a disheartening loss.

Yordenis Ugás is only seven years younger than the Filipino senator, yet he's just getting started after seizing this improbable opportunity to knock off one of the greats.

Ugás beat Pacquiao by unanimous decision in Las Vegas, putting on an impressive technical performance on 11 days' notice and retaining his WBA welterweight title.

"He's a great competitor, but I came in here to show I am the champion of the WBA," Ugás said. "A lot of respect for him, but I won this fight."

Ugás (27-4) capitalized on this chance as the late injury replacement for Errol Spence Jr.. The Cuban veteran was slightly better than Pacquiao (67-8-2) throughout one of the most frustrating fights in the 42-year-old Filipino senator's career.

The 35-year-old Ugás threw roughly half as many punches as Pacquiao, but his blows were more precise and more effective. Pacquiao was the

solid favorite before the bout, but he struggled to get inside on Ugás' effective jab while Ugás landed his right hand to increasing effect in the later rounds.

"I'm very excited, but most of all, I want to thank Manny Pacquiao for giving me this moment in this ring today," Ugás said through a translator. "We only had two weeks of training, but I listened to my corner and it all worked out."

Two judges scored it 116-112 for Ugás, and a third had it 115-113. The Associated Press also scored it 116-112 for Ugás.

A visibly disappointed Pacquiao said he hasn't decided whether he will fight again after an unimpressive performance in his return from the longest layoff of his quarter-century in the sport. He also wouldn't confirm whether he will enter the Philippines' presidential race, as is widely expected. He intends to make an announcement next month.

"Let me rest first before my family and I make a decision," Pacquiao said.

The victory was the culmination of a lengthy journey for Ugás, who defected from Cuba two years after winning a bronze medal in the Beijing Olympics.

## MULDOON

From Page 19

track and field team, rounded out the women's Top 3 with a time of 1:23.16.

Villacrusis, for his part, finished second overall and first among men with a time of 1:18.33. The 21-year-old student from George Fox University in Oregon hopes his first and last tryout would be enough to earn him a spot in the Commonwealth's triathlon team for next year's Mini Games.

"I didn't really do a lot of training so I just came here and try to do my best. I'm glad I placed and hopefully I could qualify for next year's Mini Games. I'm about to leave this Saturday [for college] so there's not a chance to take part in the next tryouts. Hopefully this performance would be good enough to qualify," he said.

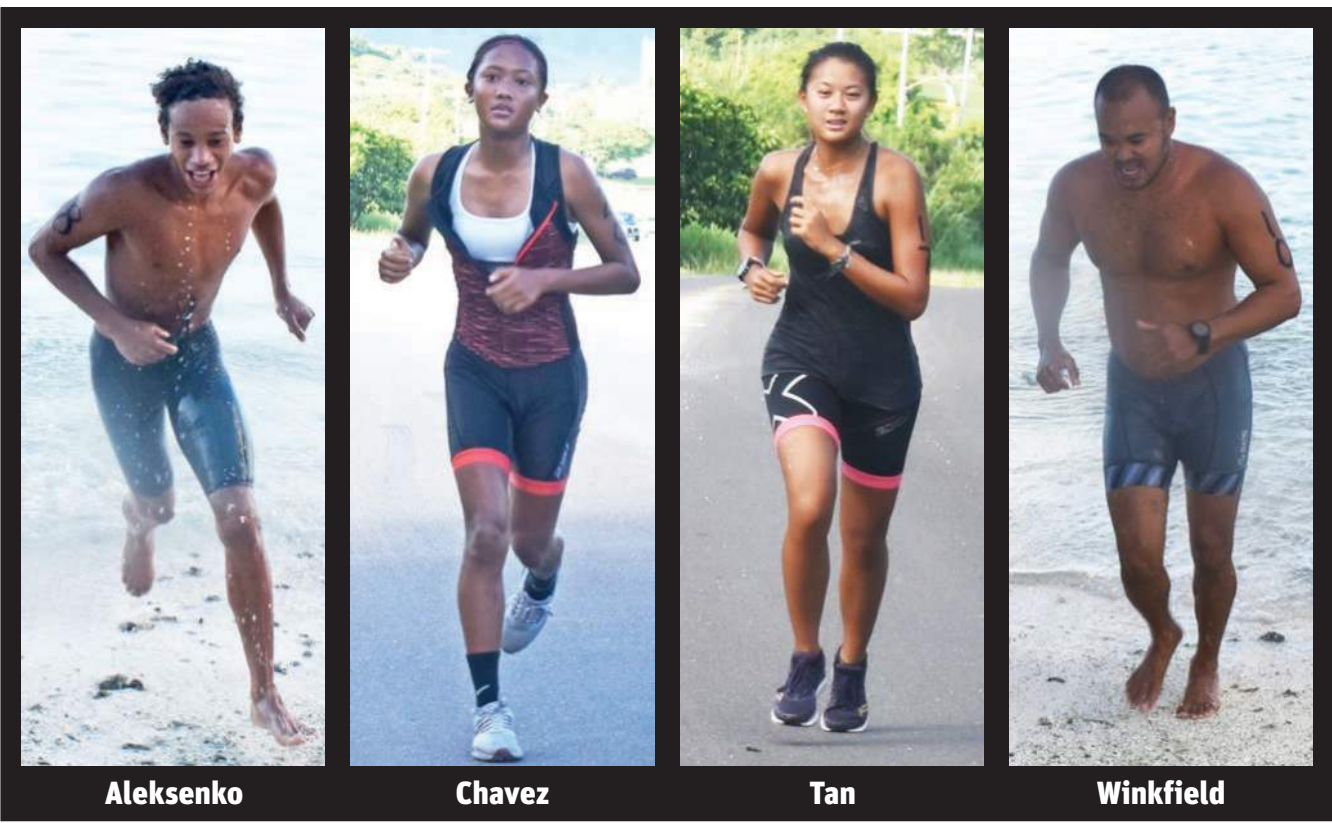
Villacrusis, who also represented the CNMI in a triathlon in the Philippines in 2017, gave kudos to Muldoon for beating him after he had what

seemed like a safe lead after the bike split.

"She's a superfast runner. Great job. I wish I trained more for the run as well. Hopefully I'll get to represent the CNMI next year. That will be awesome!"

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan member Isaiah Aleksenko was second in the men's division with a time of 1:22.46 but what's impressive was the 15-year-old Marianas High School student did so with an ill-fitting road bike and just socks to negotiate the 5-kilometer stretch of asphalt and concrete in the run split.

When asked if would've beaten Villacrusis if he had the proper equipment, Aleksenko remained humble. "Honestly, probably not even if I had running shoes and a larger bike. I don't think I would catch up because he already started the bike first and he was probably past Kensington [Hotel] when I started the bike because his transition was very fast after the swimming part. He is a



very talented guy, and tries his best no matter what."

MHS teacher and former Saipan Swim Club coach Jacoby Winkfield finished third among men with a time of 1:31.17. A total of nine women and eight men took part in the tryouts. Results of the Taga Kids Triathlon, which was held immediately after the tryouts, will be published in tomorrow's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*.

Triathlon Association of the CNMI organized the Mini Games tryouts and the Taga Kids Triathlon, which were in turn sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC and Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	76	48	.613	
New York	72	52	.581	4
Boston	70	55	.560	6½
Toronto	64	57	.529	10½
Baltimore	38	84	.311	37
Central Division				
Chicago	72	52	.581	
Cleveland	60	61	.496	10½
Detroit	59	66	.472	13½
Kansas City	54	68	.443	17
Minnesota	54	70	.435	18
West Division				
Houston	73	50	.593	
Oakland	70	54	.565	3½
Seattle	66	58	.532	7½
Los Angeles	62	63	.496	12
Texas	43	80	.350	30
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Atlanta	67	56	.545	
Philadelphia	62	61	.504	5
New York	60	63	.488	7
Washington	53	69	.434	13½
Miami	51	73	.411	16½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	75	49	.605	
Cincinnati	68	57	.544	7½
St. Louis	62	60	.508	12
Chicago	54	71	.432	21½
Pittsburgh	44	79	.358	30½
West Division				
San Francisco	79	44	.642	
Los Angeles	78	46	.629	1½
San Diego	68	57	.544	12
Colorado	57	66	.463	22
Arizona	41	83	.331	38½

## K2 BALLERS

From Page 19

geyo in the second as the trio combined for 18 points to keep OG Rollers at the helm and they won running away.

Garcia scored 12 points to lead OG Rollers, while Teregeyo and Aldan chipped in 9 and 7 markers, respectively. Lakay had no double-figure scorer and was spearheaded by the 9 points of J.R. Martinez. Mel Capalad also added 6 points in the loss.

Other teams signed up for

the tournament, which is being held to raise funds to buy RBA's shooting machines, are Socho 1, San Antonio Sixers, Rollers, Blu Haus, Jacob's Bakeshop & BBQ, Marianas Dental Center, GMJ/IKKI (Bolabois), The Game, and Pacific Auto.

Results of Saturday's five-game schedule will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

**First Game**  
**K2 Ballers 62** – Santos 29, Faisao 14, Mendiola 11, Hocog 4, Lizama 3, Malwelbul 2.

**Socho 2 46** – Fejeran 16, Taisague 12, Pangelinan 4, Sharry 3, Phillip 3, Guerrero 2, Espinosa 2, Smith 2, Iguel 1.

**Scoring by halves:** 26-15, 63-46.

**Second Game**  
**OG Rollers 47** – Garcia 12, Teregeyo 9, Aldan 7, Pangelinan 5, Satur 4, Naraja 4, Factor 2, Danas 2, Ilo 2, Feria 2.

**Lakay 32** – Martinez 9, Capalad 6, Chris 4, Jaime 3, Isip 3, Toribio 2, Binuya 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 26-19, 47-32.

## BABAUTA

From Page 19

score of 89, which minus her 16 handicap, gave her the 73.

She actually finished tied with Eun Ae Jang who completed the Top 3 for this month's tournament after the latter came away with also net score of 73. Kim, however, beat her in a scorecard tie-break to win second place. The

19-handicapper Jang started her round with a 43 in the first nine holes before retiring to the clubhouse with a 49 in the back for a gross score of 92.

A total of 11 women took part in CWGA's August tournament. The rest of the players, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Jeong Si Yu (74); Sunny Son (74); Sherlyn Jones (75); Terry Guerrero (77); Kyunga

Park (80); Yuko Togawa (81); Ean Ae Chang (84); and Sae Hee Kim (87).

The club is also looking for new members as the new season has begun. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at 783-7317.



Lorraine Babauta makes a drive during the CNMI Women's Golf Association's August ace last Saturday, Aug. 21, at the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





**Scherzer helps  
Dodgers beat  
Mets 4-3 for 9th  
straight win**

**PAGE 17**

# Saipan Tribune Sports



**Manny Pacquiao loses to Yordenis  
Ugás by unanimous decision** **PAGE 19**

**20** MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Muldoon, Villacrusis top first qualifier



**Muldoon**



**Villacrusis**

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**L**ily Muldoon and Christian Villacrusis topped the first of a series of tryouts for the CNMI National Triathlon Team that will represent the Commonwealth in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games last Saturday in Marpi.

Muldoon, a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center, tackled the 750m swim in the waters off Paupau Beach, the 20-kilometer bike race from Paupau to Seafix to Banzai Cliff and Paupau, and 5km run from Paupau to the entrance of the FEBC compound and back in 1:14.49 to finish first overall.

“What an amazing race it felt so good to be out there today and see so many competitors. I felt really good in the swim, the bike, and run. It was interesting to do a sprint because it’s a shorter race than I’m used to so I felt like I should try to do sprinting the whole time and it worked out,” said the 36-year-old native of Colorado.

She said she’s been training for triathlon the past two years now and trailed Villacrusis for most of the race until she overtook the youngster just right after the turnaround of the run.

“I couldn’t see him the entire bike race. I didn’t know how far from me he was and then as we got into the long stretch in the run I could see him in the distance and I could tell if I kept a strong pace I could catch him,” she said.

Kaithlyn Chavez came in second to Muldoon in the women’s category after the multi-sport wunderkind crossed the finish line in 1:22.48. Tania Tan, a member of the Fordham University

**See MULDOON on Page 19**



### Babauta rules CWGA August tourney

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Lorraine Babauta is the latest qualifier to the CNMI Women’s Golf Association’s yearend tournament after topping the club’s August ace last Saturday, Aug. 21, at the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman.

Babauta finished with a

net 72 after shooting identical 44s in the front and back nines for a gross score of 88. Minus her 16 handicap, she came away with the winning net score of the day.

Mio Kim settled for runner-up honors for the August tourney after she finished a stroke back of Babauta with a net score of 73. She fired a 46 in the front nine before finishing her day with a 43 in the back nine for a gross

**See BABAUTA on Page 19**

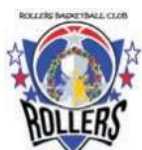


Participants of CNMI Women’s Golf Association’s August tourney are all smiles during a break in their play last Saturday, Aug. 21, at the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## K2 Ballers, OG Rollers victorious in Day 1

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



K2 Ballers and OG Rollers got off to auspicious starts as the NMI Rollers Basketball Association’s Inaugural NMI Rollers Men’s Basketball Tournament kicked off last Friday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

In the first game, K2 Ballers leaned on the hot 3-point shooting of Jon Santos to beat Socho 2, 62-46.

Santos fired 11 points—9 from rainbow country—in the first 20 minutes of action to give K2 Ballers a 25-15 lead after the first half. He would go from combustible to scorching in the second half, as the sweet-shooting guard added



K2 Ballers, seen here in action against Pacific Auto, defeated Socho 2 in Day 1 of the NMI Rollers Basketball Association’s Inaugural NMI Rollers Men’s Basketball Tournament last Friday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

MARK RABAGO

18 more points—six from the land of plenty—as the Kagman team coasted to victory.

Santos led the way with a so far tournament-high 29 points. Ichi Faisao and Ryan Mendiola also finished in doubles figures for K2 Ballers with 14 and 11 markers, respectively.

Donnie Fejeran paced Socho 2 in the loss with 16 points, while Athan Taisague added 12.

In the second game of Friday’s twin bill, OG Rollers got balanced contributions up and down its lineup to prevail, 47-32, against an out-of-sync Lakay squad.

Eli Garcia and Leo Naraja punched in 4 points apiece in the first half that saw OG Rollers erect a 26-19 lead.

Garcia then got help from Lucio Aldan and Don Tere-  
**See K2 BALLERS on Page 19**